Sunday, June 14, 2009 ★★ 16 sections / Vol. 24 / No. 106 P20 website: www.inquirer.net

• From the Palais to the Palace: GMA awards P1M to Cannes Best Director Brillante Mendoza • Cameron Diaz reflects on her father's death / ENTERTAINMENT • (Virgie) Moreno on (Pilay) Moreno / SUNDAY LIFESTYLE

• Le Souffle's Chef Jessie Sincioco makes it happen here: Eating out and giving back / SUNDAY INQUIRER MAGAZINE
• Not for children only: 8-step plan to battle the flu / JUNIOR INQUIRER

PHILIPPINE Sunday INQUIRER
FEARLESS NEWS. FEARLESS VIEWS

• Star maker Douglas Quijano found dead in rest house in Lucban, Quezon METRO / A20 • How to become the next Pinoy YouTube idol TALK OF THE TOWN / A14 • P1B shabu in Cotabato NEWS / A2 • Monument to RP rises in Israel NEWS / A18 • Ruby Rose's parents seek grandchildren's custody NEWS / A3 • Iran hardliner Ahmadinejad reelected WORLD / A22

## Show biz celebs told: PDEA is watching you

By Tarra Quismundo



NOT JUST THE RMN are watching show biz stars. Agents of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) are watching celebs, too. Especially if they are suspected drug users.

"[Show biz people] are just as vulnerable as us. They think we're relaxing. But we will be

SHOW BIZ/ A4

BIRDLAND IN TUBBATAHA Tim Fisher, a British author of "Guide to the Birds of the Philippines" and "Photographic Guide to Birds of Philippines" went bird-watching with ornithologists from the World Wide Fund for Nature at the bird islet in Palawan with photographer Melvyn Calderon who photographed a flock of brown boobies.

# Allies hail GMA House bid

## But they claim it is still an option, not done deal

By TJ Burgonio and Tonette Orejas, *Inquirer Central Luzon*

THE ALLIES OF PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO IN PAMpanga have yet to hear it straight from her mouth, but without official word—and even with strong denials from Palace officials—they welcomed the idea of her contesting Pampanga's second district seat.

"As a Kapampangan, I certainly favor [Ms Arroyo's] continued service and leadership in government in whatever capacity, especially as a concerned Pampanga," said Rep. Aurelio Gonzales, of the third district.

He was commenting on an Inquirer report that Agrarian Reform Secretary Nasser Pangandaman had categorically stated that the President would run for a congressional seat in her home province.

San Fernando Mayor Oscar Rodriguez, a member of the ruling Lakas-

ALLIES/ A5

## Drug firms race to make first A(H1N1) flu vaccine

LONDON—WITH SWINE FLU NOW an official pandemic, the race is on among drugmakers to produce a vaccine.

GlaxoSmithKline said on Thursday after the World Health Organization declared a global flu epidemic that it would be ready within weeks to begin large-scale vaccine production.

Sanofi-Aventis also said it had started working on its own version.

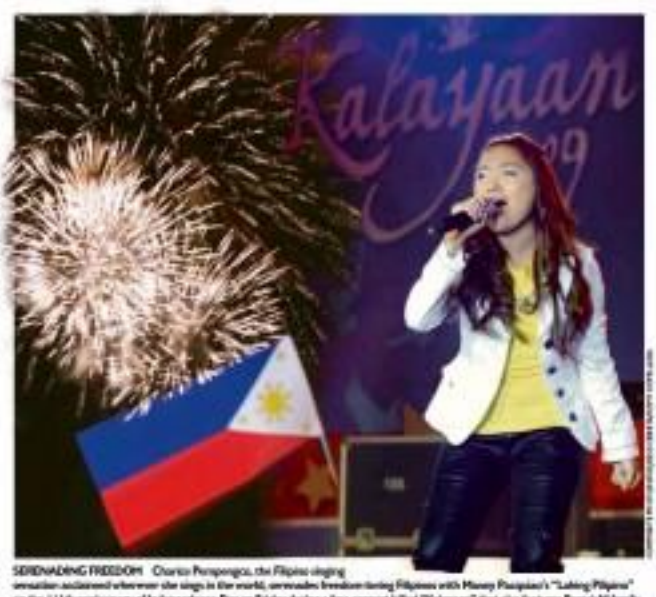
On Friday, Swiss pharma giant Novartis announced it had created an experimental vaccine that had not been tested on people. Novartis' vaccine was made via a cell-based technology that may prove faster than the traditional way of making vaccines, which relies on chicken eggs.

The UN health agency raised its global alert to a maximum six on Thursday, saying it had reached pandemic status because of its geographical spread.

WHO Director General Margaret Chan said the declaration of a "moderate" pandemic should not spark panic and did not mean the A(H1N1) (swine flu) death toll would rise sharply.

She said raising the alert "means that the world is moving into the early

DRUG FIRMS/ A4



SERENADING FREEDOM Charice Pempengco, the Filipino singing sensation acclaimed wherever she sings in the world, serenades freedom-loving Filipinos with Mikey Bustos's "Lupang Pilipino" on the 111th anniversary of Independence Day on Friday during a free concert billed "Kalayaan" that also features Francis M's family.

## At P4,000 per day, Mabuhay Guides RP's expert envoys

By Jocelyn R. Uy

WHILE US DEFENSE SECRETARY Robert Gates was holding talks with Filipino counterpart Defense Secretary Gilberto Teodoro Jr. on counter-terrorism and humanitarian and disaster assistance at Camp Aguinaldo on June 1, his wife, Becky was strolling along the cobbled streets of Intramuros with Mabuhay Guides.

The Mabuhay Guides make P4,000 each day touring visitors around the walled city of Intramuros, Manila's oldest town Tondo and Binondo and yes, Roxas Boulevard.

Dressed in crisp gray and sand-toned suits, 21 Filipinos travel to places to explore little-known secrets of history, take foreign VIPs to famous tourist spots and hook them in with stories of yore, pushing for a "beautiful Philippines" for the world to behold.

The "Mabuhay Guides," an identity they pin on their right chest, are passionate about Philippine history and its rich cultural heritage and the shared hope to put the country on the world tourism map.

"There is still much more to discover

AT P4,000/ A3

## Ping on why Raul sacked: 2 mortal sins

By Michael Lim Ubac and TJ Burgonio

SEN. PANFILO LACSON ALLEGEDLY struck a deal with Malacañang that caused the demotion of Raul Gonzalez. Yesterday, Lacson turned the tables on the former justice secretary.

In an interview yesterday with Gelly Ramos on radio station dwIZ, Lacson declared that he had never struck a deal with Malacañang over the celebrated double-murder case of publicist Salvador "Bubby" Dacer and his driver Emmanuel Corbito.

In the radio interview, Lacson broke his silence for the first time since Gonzalez was sacked and quickly replaced by Solicitor General Agnes Devanadera.

Asked whether Gonzalez's fate was part of the bargain, the senator said in Filipino: "From the very beginning, I

PING/ A4

## US couple retires in Corregidor to honor father who fought there

By Ross Harper Alarva
*Contributor*

WHILE MANY DREAM OF RETIRING into a private island in the Philippines with long stretches of deserted fine, white sand beaches or enjoying a luxury resort lifestyle still close to where the action is, an American couple has chosen to do the unusual.

Steve Kwiecinski, 57, a retired computer programmer and his wife, Marcia, 56, a retired physical therapist assistant, left Michigan in 2008 to start a new life on Corregidor, the island fortress that has become a national shrine as a symbol of the determined resistance of its Filipino and American defenders against the invading Japanese in World War II.

The island, also known as the "The Rock" because of its rocky landscape and heavy fortifications, holds a special place in the hearts of the Kwiecinskis.

"We moved to Corregidor to pay tribute to my father, who loved Cor-

US COUPLE/ A8

HOME ON THE ROCK Steve and Marcia Kwiecinski arrived on Corregidor Island in 2008 with only 4 suitcases but are here to stay for its beautiful sunrises and sunsets, for the sound of birds when they wake up and for deeply sentimental reasons. CONTRIBUTOR PHOTO

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Northern and Southern Luzon, the western portion of Central Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Manila | Mostly Cloudy | Cotabato | Mostly Cloudy |
| Dagupan | Partly Cloudy | Davao | Mostly Cloudy |
| Laoag | Mostly Cloudy | Tacloban | Mostly Cloudy |
| Cabanatuan | Mostly Cloudy | Iloilo | Mostly Cloudy |
| Legazpi | Mostly Cloudy | Zamboanga | Mostly Cloudy |
| Tuguegarao | Mostly Cloudy | Cagayan de Oro | Mostly Cloudy |

Second FRONTPAGE

E-mail: pc_news@inquirer.com.ph Website: www.inquirer.net/news

EZ2
2 4
10 6

SUERTRES
6 6 2

4 1 1

9 2 4

SIX DIGIT (For amounts in dollars)
7 7 4 7 3 4

6/42 LUZ-VIS-MIN
1 6 13 33 34 36
₱4,190,771.80

POWER LOTTO 6/55 + 1/10
43 32 2 44 16+ 3
₱61,242,660.00

# Suspect admits making deadly Rizal Day bombs

By Nichol Unos, Ederis Fernandez and Carlo Aguenzo
Inquirer Mindanao

ILIGAN CITY—A SUSPECTED EXPLOSIVES EXPERT, believed to be involved in the Rizal Day bombings in Metro Manila in December 2000, has admitted to have manufactured the bombs used in the attacks that killed 22 people and left hundreds wounded.

Col. Hey Ardo, commander of the 103rd Infantry Brigade based in Marawi City, said Antar Imanotie who was captured by the military on Thursday, admitted his role in the attacks during tactical interrogation.

"He eventually admitted to being the same guy who helped manufacture the bombs used in the Rizal Day bomb attacks," he said.

Five nearly simultaneous bombings—one of them in a commuter train—ripped various areas in Metro Manila on December 30, 2000, the eleventh anniversary of the country's national hero, Jose Rizal.

Three men—Saifulla Yusoh alias Mukbil Pasic, Mohd Fuad Pasic, and Hamzan Nega—were sentenced last January to 40-to-40-years imprisonment for the bombing attacks, considered as one of the worst in Philippine history.

Imanotie, a Balik-Islam and an alleged member of the Rajah Sulaiman Movement (RSM), was nabbed during a military raid on a safehouse in Libod village in Marawi City at dawn on Thursday.

Imanotie was flown to Manila on Friday and will soon be presented to President Macapagal-Arroyo, according to Ardo.

Ardo said Imanotie's capture happened in the area under the Visiting Forces Agreement (VFA) helped in the capture by providing intelligence information on the suspect.

Ardo said they purposely delayed the release of information about Imanotie's arrest because the military had to validate it yet.

He said the suspect, who also had ties with the Jemaah Islamiyah regional network initially denied involvement in terror activities.

Ardo said after the attacks, Imanotie fled to various rebel encampments in Mindanao and was even injured in the arm when Al-affiliated gunmen clashed with soldiers in Davao Oriental last year.

He said the suspect arrived in Marawi City three days before he was arrested by soldiers.

"We have validated all the information about him," he said.

Police Supt. Danilo Sarza, spokesperson of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) police, said Imanotie is a brother of Gmar Imanotie, who was captured in January and has also been accused of helping Islamic fundamentalist groups in Mindanao.

Ardo said the military and the police were also looking at the suspect's possible involvement in the Aug. 17 bomb attacks here, which killed four people and injured 40 others.

In Cotabato City, police and military authorities launched a joint manhunt against three commanders of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), who led an attack on the North Cotabato provincial jail at dawn on Thursday. With AP report

PROJECT INSPECTION President Macapagal-Arroyo, together with Quezon City Mayor Sonny Belmonte, inspects the MRT-LRT connection at Edsa near Mother Ignacia, Quezon City on Friday evening. NICANOR LOBETO

# Catholic prelates divided over Charter change

By Dona Pazcoguin

CATHOLIC BISHOPS ARE DIvided over the issue of Charter change, perceived as an initiative of allies of President Macapagal-Arroyo to change the Constitution before the 2010 elections to lift the term limits against elected officials.

Lingayen-Dagupan Archbishop Oscar Cruz, former president of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines, yesterday admitted that while they are united in "faith and moral" issues, the bishops are not one over Charter change, a controversial issue that prompted a huge multi-sectoral protest rally this month.

Cruz made the comment in reaction to a statement by Caloocan Bishop Deogracias Iñiguez earlier that the bishops are not united on this political issue.

"That's true. In faith and morals we stand together. But when it comes to politicians, not politics per se, you see might differ in our perceptions, and that's par of pluralism and restrictions which we already somehow perceived," Cruz told reporters.

"For example I may see this politician as a crook, but another fellow might look at this politician as a benign benefactor, and that's also acceptable. That's part of making democracy a choice," he added.

Cruz, however, stressed that the members of the bishops are against the last-minute attempt by administration lawmakers to convene the House of Representatives into a constituent assembly, without the Senate, to amend the Constitution.

He said the bishops who share a different view are to the minority.

"Those bishops are few and usually they are not as vocal as the others. They are, by and large quiet, and if they talk, rise to their also their right. But I don't think they can make an impact," he said.

# Con-ass as good as dead—Enrile

LEGAZPI CITY—The conference assembly being pushed by the House of Representatives will just be a waste of time and there is no chance that President Macapagal-Arroyo's allies would muster her own solution if "because of the push barrel," Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile said here on Friday.

Enrile also said he believed the President had nothing to do with the Con-ass. "If she has any intention of tinkering with the Constitution, I would have known, probably she would have asked me and asked for advice on what do I think about this possibility."

Some observers believe the Con-ass is just a ploy of Malacañang to make members of the House of Representatives stick to President Arroyo, believing they can push the President's term beyond 2010.

"It is easy to accuse her to believe the Con-ass but she knows it is not possible without the involvement of the Senate," Enrile said, adding that the Senate is not supporting any amendment to the Constitution through the Con-ass.

He laughed out loud the Con-ass is now like a "dead on arrival" bill and there would never be any Charter change before the 2010 national and local elections.

"I am in favor of Charter change but after 2010. There are many debates of the present Constitution that must be corrected. It is not a perfect document but it is 'perfectable,'" Enrile added. Rey M. Nassol, Inquirer Southern Luzon

JOIN THE PUBLIC AUCTION OF

AUCTION SALE MALINTA

Inspection Dates
June 16 to 19, 2009

ALL PARADE

Auction Date:
June 20 & 21, 2009
Starts at 9:30 a.m.

MANY NEW ARRIVALS FROM JAPAN

Toyota Equipment Financing available thru
CHINA BANKING Leasing & Finance Corp. 7-for-[illegible]

Trucks & Equipment Financing available thru

# Cotabato 'shabu' lab nets ₱900M/month

By Terra Quiaoscardo

THE ALLEGED "SHABU" makers' chemist arrested Thursday in Cotabato City was involved in the manufacture of the illegal drug that netted P900 million in sales monthly, and possibly in the operation of at least three drug laboratories now raided by authorities in Metro Manila.

Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) Director General Dionisio Santiago said yesterday that the laboratory allegedly run by Chinese national Peter Chua inside his home in Barangay Rosary Heights, Cotabato City churned out each day three kilos of the most widely used drug in the country today.

Each kilo sells for around P1.8 million in the streets, the PDEA said.

"We learned that at the time of the raid, several batches of shabu had already been manufactured and were already stored and ready for distribution," said Santiago.

PDEA officials believe Chua had links with the Tiger Group of the Chinese Triad and had a hand in the operation of kitchen-type drug laboratories raided by authorities earlier in Tanauan, Batangas and on N.S. Amoranto Jr. Ave. in Quezon City and another in Sta. Cruz, Manila.

Chua was arrested with wife Nicholas Hamhong, 23, and driver Francis Li Ambe in his house in Barangay Rosary Heights, Cotabato City churned out each day three kilos of the most widely used drug in the country today.

Each kilo sells for around P1.8 million in the streets, the PDEA said.

"We learned that at the time of the raid, several batches of shabu had already been manufactured and were already stored and ready for distribution," said Santiago.

PDEA officials believe Chua had links with the Tiger Group of the Chinese Triad and had a hand in the operation of kitchen-type drug laboratories raided by authorities earlier in Tanauan, Batangas and on N.S. Amoranto Jr. Ave. in Quezon City and another in Sta. Cruz, Manila.

Chua was arrested with wife Nicholas Hamhong, 23, and driver Francis Li Ambe in his house in Barangay Rosary Heights, Cotabato City Thursday morning.

PDEA Special Enforcement Service chief Wid. Ferdinand Marcelino said the laboratory was set up behind a plywood divider inside Chua's bedroom. Found inside the lab were shabu, raw materials and equipment used to produce the illegal drug.

# Media man shot dead in Masbate

LEGAZPI CITY—A JOURNALIST WAS SHOT dead by two motorcycle-riding men in the island province of Masbate while the country celebrated its 111th Independence Day on Friday.

Antonio Castillo, 65, of Brgy. Bitaogan, Masbate and a correspondent of the Bicolano tabloid, was driving his motorcycle along the highway in Barangay Mastahan, Uson town when he was shot at around 9 a.m., Chief Insp. Reynaldo Biñol, regional police spokesperson, said.

Castillo is the fourth journalist to be killed this year and the 65th since President Macapagal-Arroyo came to power in 2001. Human rights groups have also listed over 800 extrajudicial killings, mostly political dissidents and labor leaders, in the past eight years.

Cadiao said that the assailants, riding on a Honda motorcycle with no plate number, trailed Castillo on the highway then fired shots using a still unknown pistol.

Castillo sustained gun shot wounds on the lower portion of his back.

Witnesses brought him to the Masbate Provincial Hospital where he died in around 12 p.m.

The Uson Municipal Police Office have yet to determine the motive of the killing. Rey M. Nassol and Ashzenne O. Dongo, Inquirer Southern Luzon

# Ruby Rose parents seek custody of grandchildren

By Lolit B. Salaverria
and Nina Catherine Calleja

THE PARENTS OF MURDER victim Ruby Rose Bautrandes Jimenez have asked the Department of Social Welfare and Development to help them get custody of their daughter's two children.

The family-owned rental and realty studio is to intervene in the case, Ruby Rose's mother, Anatalcon Bautrandes, told the Inquirer.

At the very least, they want the government to help bring the two children, who have been staying with their father Manuel Jimenez II, to the wake of their mother.

Ruby Rose's body was recovered by local traffic aid concerned family a dress in the sea. She had been missing for two years.

Her father-in-law, Manuel Jimenez Jr., his brother Lupo, and hair associates have been charged with the murder based on the testimony of suspect-turned-state witness, Manuel Montero.

The Jimenez family has denied the charges.

Attention shifted to an forgot known here Ruby Rose's two daughters (Mega Vrabel, 9, and Maria Rosa, 11) looks like after not seeing them for two years.

Ruby Rose, a graduate of AB Mass Communication from University of Perpetual Help, is the sister of actress and former beauty queen Rochelle Bautrandes. She married Jimenez when she was 19. After losing a custody battle for the children, Ruby Rose disappeared on May 14, 2007.

## Buoyed

According to Anatalcon, Ruby Rose had told them she was physically and emotionally battered in the later part of her marriage with Manuel III.

"She had been selling us problems and issues with her husband," she said.

She had left the Jimenez house after being hurt in a fight. Ruby Rose had mentioned that Manuel III threatened to kill her, said Anatalcon.

## Custody decision unusual

Meanwhile, women's party-list representative Liza Maza wrote to take a second look at the 2007 decision of a Las Piñas judge denying Ruby Rose Bautrandes Jimenez custody of her young children.

Maza said it was strange that Ruby Rose would be denied custody of children less than seven years old.

The Civil Code states that no mother should be separated from her children below seven years old, unless there was a very compelling reason to rule otherwise, said Maza.

Ruby Rose's children with her estranged husband were seven years old and had turned six at the time of the custody case.

The decision to give Ruby Rose's young children to her estranged husband was handed down shortly before she were missing.

"By law, automatic custody especially of her four-month old baby at the least should have been given to the mother as the rightful parent-guardian. We find it highly irregular why the judge favored giving custody of the child to Manuel Jimenez III. Had there been any proof that Ruby Rose was an unfit parent? Or is it because of the alleged influence and wealth of the Jimenez family?" the lawmaker said in a statement.

## Beaten and assaulted

Before she disappeared, Ruby Rose also sought court protection against her spouse who had reportedly beaten and assaulted her.

She has request now again raised down by the court, noted Ilima.

Maza, a leader of the militant women's group Gabriela, lamented that the Anti-Violence Against Women and Children Act, which she co-authored, has failed to stem the abuse of women.

# Chinese submarine smashes US ship's sonar near Subic Bay

WASHINGTON - A CHINESE submarine collided with an underwater sonar array towed by the destroyer USS John S. McCain off the coast of the Philippines, CNN television said, quoting a US official who said it was an "unplanned encounter."

The array, used to locate underwater sounds, was damaged in the incident, but the military official said the sub and ship did not collide.

The incident occurred on Thursday near Subic Bay, according to the CNN report.

The US Navy does not view the incident as a deliberate move by Beijing to harass military ships operating in the region, CNN reported.

"The John S. McCain did have a problem with its towed array sonar. It was damaged" on Thursday in Subic Bay, a Pentagon spokesman told Reuters in a telephone interview.

The spokesman, who asked not to be identified, would not confirm other details of the CNN report, including whether the array collided with a Chinese submarine. He said the US destroyer was not damaged and was not hit by another vessel.

**Philippine Navy silent**

In comment Vice Admiral Ferdinand Golez said they have no information on the alleged incident.

He also said that the USS John S. McCain was not in the Philippines and that Chinese submarines should not be passing through Philippine waters. However, he admitted that the Philippine military has no equipment to detect such submarines.

In March this year, two (nine standoff) between US and Chinese vessels in the South China Sea separated accusations by the United States that China was behaving in an "aggressive" manner.

China later said a US naval vessel involved in the incident with Chinese fishing boats in the Yellow Sea had violated maritime law, and urged the United States to take steps to avoid a repetition. AFP Reuters

# Cruz; 56

ENGINEER DANILO "Bong" Cruz passed away on June 10 after a lingering illness in Zamboanga City. He was 56.

He is survived by his wife, Hazelbeth, and his sons, Rory and Jim.

His remains will be flown to Manila on Sunday, June 14, and will lie in state at the Arlington Memorial Homes, Aranaya Ave., Quezon City, Interment is scheduled on June 16 at the Heritage Park in Taguig City.

Friends cannot foray at cellphone no. 09175162684.

# Britain tops world's 'risk list' for spread of flu

PARIS—BRITAIN IS MOST AT risk to the spread of an influenza pandemic, closely followed by The Netherlands, Germany, Italy and South Korea, according to a ranking of 215 countries released on Friday (Saturday in Manila).

Russia, Canada, Israel, Singapore, Hong Kong and Japan are also classified as being at "extreme risk" of a flu virus spreading within their borders due to some mix of dense populations, busy airports and high levels of tourism and urbanization.

The World Health Organization (WHO) declared Thursday that the A(H1N1) swine flu that has swept across 74 countries since April—infecting tens of thousands and claiming 141 lives—had become a pandemic, the first in four decades.

## Capacity index

But even if most rich countries are vulnerable to the rapid transmission of the disease, they are far better equipped to cope with its impact, said Alexis Ruffaert, a professor at Nikowik Business School in Britain and main architect of the global ranking.

"Capacity to contain the spread is going to be much weaker in poor countries with rampant poverty and lack of education. That would be much of sub-Saharan Africa," he said.

In a separate "capacity" index, all but seven of the 40 nations least able to contain a pandemic are in the African continent.

At the other end of the spectrum, the European Union—along with the US, Japan and other wealthy states with strong health care systems and communications networks—comprises the 40 countries most able to thwart or slow down a full-on pandemic.

A third index, also compiled in cooperation with British-based Maplecroft, a firm specializing in global risk analysis, identifies countries most likely to see the emergence of a new pandemic flu strain on their territory.

"In these countries, people are not as poor so as not have means," said Warburton.

"They wear swine and poultry, but they lack clean water and sanitation, as well as health education outreach. These tend to be emerging economies."

It is no coincidence that five of the 13 countries topping this list are those where the H5N1 "bird flu" has hit hardest, according to the research.

Since 2003, the H5N1 strain has killed some 250 people—60 percent of those known to be infected—in a dozen countries, including 115 in Indonesia, 56 in Vietnam, 23 in China, 17 in Thailand and 15 in Egypt, according to the WHO.

Many of those nations—including Mexico, the epicenter of the current outbreak—share an ailment favorable to the emergence of flu strains with pandemic potential: Large rural populations, underdeveloped sanitation systems and especially large swine and domestic fowl populations.

All the major pandemics over the last century have combined genetic material from viruses found in pigs, birds and humans, with swine often being the final "mixing vessel" before the strains mutated into a form easily spread among people. AFP


REMINDER TO ALL LAWYERS

You have an appointment

REGISTRATION STARTS AT 7:00 AM

UNIVERSITY OF THE CITY OF MANILA

Independence Day Sale!

399K

All-in-one Package

893-2959 • 893-6339

need a job?

NOW AVAILABLE! EMF SHIELD

For CELLPHONES, LAPTOPS, etc.

FACTORY SALE

612-05-11 Cubao
282-64-80 Manila
709-17-82 Q.C.-Tiptop
450-68-79 Q.C.-Ever
Bus 0920-9852884

"BONTILAO GROUPS - EXPANSION FOR THE BENEFITS OF THE EVER-GROWING CLIENTELE FOR HEALTH & EDUCATION"

SAINT MARY'S College of San Juan

Study & Work in the UK

EXPLORE YOUR OPTIONS AT THE
WEST END COLLEGE LONDON OPEN DAY IN PHILIPPINES

WHERE WE SHALL SHOWCASE OUR:

- Certificate, diploma, advanced diploma, professional graduate diploma and English language programmes
- Bachelors and Postgraduate degrees in business, IT, law and management
- Excellent progression route to Masters of Business Administration degree

MEET WITH OUR INTERNATIONAL RECRUITMENT TEAM IN MANILA

DATE: 25-06-2009 and 26-06-2009

• TIME: 9 AM – 3 PM
VENUE: 'The Malayan Plaza',
40B Avenue corner Opal Road,
Ortigas Center Pasig City, Philippines, 1600

• TIME: 5PM – 7PM
VENUE: British Council
10th Floor Taipan Place
F. Ortigas Jr., Road (formerly Emerald Avenue)
Ortigas Centre, Pasig City
1605 Philippines

West End College London


# Drug firms race to make first A(H1N1) flu vaccine

From page A1

days of its first influenza pandemic in the 21st century."

The WHO said it would ask drugmakers to quickly prepare to produce swine flu vaccines once the production of seasonal flu vaccines ended.

The southern hemisphere is currently heading into winter and the height of its flu season. Northern hemisphere countries expect to see a series flu surge when their winters wane later.

## Haves, have-nots

Many rich countries like the United States, Britain, Canada and France signed contracts with pharmaceuticals long ago, guaranteeing them access to pandemic vaccine. WHO and others maintain that about 2.4 billion doses of pandemic vaccine could be available in about a year.

The likely scramble for vaccines will leave many people in poorer countries empty-handed.

To this, swine flu has been mostly detected in developed countries like the United States, Europe, Japan and Australia.

"We do not know how this virus will behave under conditions typically found in the developing world," Chan said on Thursday. She cited the agency experience in an a "blanket" picture in the virus made its way in Africa and Asia.

WHO spokesperson Gregory Hartl said officials were concerned that people in poorer countries and those fighting other health problems like malaria, tuberculosis, malnutrition and pneumonia might be more susceptible to swine flu.

## 30,000 cases in 74 nations

On Friday WHO said that 74 countries had reported nearly 30,000 cases including 141 deaths. But so far, the virus appears to be mild. Most people don't need medical treatment to get better.

But the virus might have a more devastating effect in people with underlying health problems. About half of the people who have died from swine flu have had complications like asthma, diabetes and obesity.

"Any population that has health challenges is potentially going to be at higher risk with A(H1N1)," Chan said.

In White officials led by Chan and UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon asked wartime leaders to save a portion of their production for poor countries. Chan was aiming to get 10 percent of the global pandemic vaccine supply reserved for poor nations.

## Donation to developing countries

Some companies have agreed to help channel shots. PEC offered to donate 20 million doses of pandemic vaccine to WHO for distribution in developing countries.

During the bird flu crisis, Sanofi-Aventis promised WHO about 60 million doses based on the H5N1 strain. WHO is now talking with Sanofi to switch some or all of those vaccines over to swine flu shots.

Because more than 95 percent of flu vaccines are still made in eggs, experts say that the Novartis announcement is unlikely to significantly boost the world's pandemic vaccine supply.

But the news pushed up Novartis shares by 0.4 percent to close at 45 Swiss francs ($41.84) on the Zurich exchange Friday.

WHO is also urging governments and companies like Oxfam are encouraging to ask drugmakers to make some of their pandemic vaccines available for poorer countries at a cheaper price, as well as asking donor countries and organizations to pay for the doses.

But in a pandemic situation, WHO's attempts to secure vaccine for the poor-and-even countries and countries have stayed with drug makers may make little difference to who actually gets the vaccine, some experts say.

## Marching orders from pols

In previous pandemics, vaccines have never left the country where they are made before all of that country's own needs have been met.

"When governments are in office, for pharmaceutical companies will take their marching orders from the politicians," said Heidi Peters, a vaccines expert and former professor of medicine at the University of Virginia.

"Do you think any doses of vaccine made in France, Germany, the Czech Republic or anywhere will be allowed out to go to other countries just because doctor's a countries?" Peters said.

Ultimately, Peters said, health officials and politicians would have to deal with a limited amount of vaccine for the billions worldwide who need it. "There's a lot of decisions in vaccine politics," he said. "We may try our best, but we aren't trained in doing what's necessary." AP with a report from AFP

# *Show biz celebs told: PDEA is watching you*

From page A1

watching. Next time, multabarasan na ang mapapanood n'yo dahil ide-detain namin 'yon (Next time, there will be lots more on TV or in the movies because we have locked them up in detention centers)," said PDEA Director General Dionisio Santiago.

Santiago yesterday issued a stern warning to show biz personalities who have ignored his warnings against drug use, which came to light because of the recent sex video scandal involving.

"Let me tell you we will laugh if despite to-talk the PDEA detention center," he added.

At the Senate hearing probing the sex video, Ejan talked of a "very powerful" person who knew "all the generals" who supplied Katrina with Ecstasy but refused to name him. He said he feared for the security of his family.

Ejan's statement came amid day during a television interview after a video of Ejan and Hallil's intimate sex surfaced online.

Hallil has denied the accusation and has filed charges against the younger Ejan for raping their private act without her knowledge.

Both celebrities have tested negative for drug use after PDEA conducted drug tests officials conceded that the urine analysis would only test recent drug consumption.

## Attitude problem

Without naming names, Santiago said his operatives would continue investigating reports of celebrity involvement in illegal drugs. Some of the personalities they would like to question had ignored the agency's calls to come forward if they were drug users or if they had information on users and suppliers of illegal drugs.

"They think they're more popular than the PDEA. We have a problem if that's their attitude. Nobody would come in [talk to us] if that's the attitude," Santiago told reporters in a press conference yesterday.

"So we'll find a way for them to talk to us. We will coordinate to operate and we are winning there. We know them. We will ask them where are they," he said.

The PDEA has been investigating reports of illegal drugs distribution in celebrity circles as part of its anti-drug campaign.

The agency had received information that some stars were using illegal stimulant drugs "primarily to pump up energy and stamina in some the rigors of their work," according to an earlier PDEA statement.

## Stars and drug use

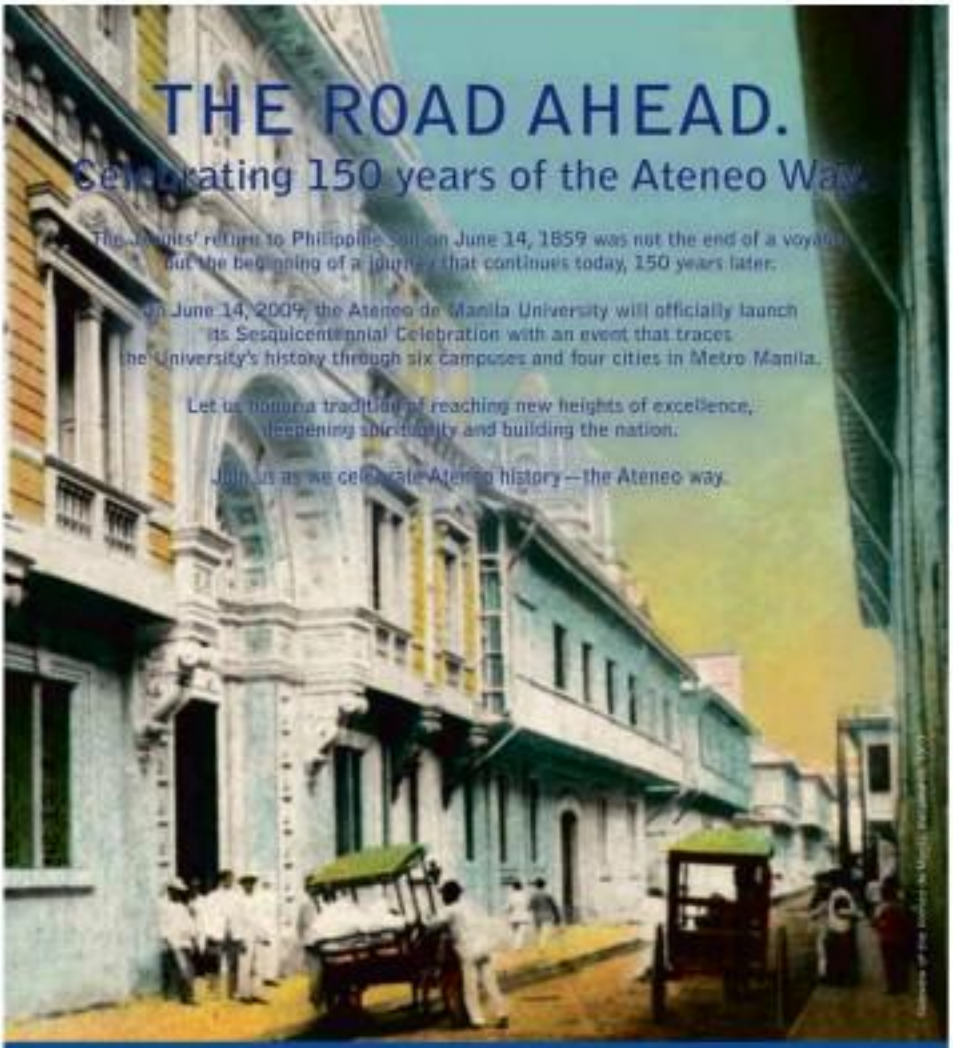
The effort to probe reports of celebrity involvement in illegal drugs received attention recently when the PDEA released an investigation into charges that actress Katrina Halili had provided controversial plastic surgeon Dr. Hayden Kho into using drugs.

Santiago recently sent a letter to the Inter-Agency Council on Anti-Trafficking and Illegal Drug Transactions (Iacat) to "initiate measures that would prevent the proliferation of illegal drugs in the entertainment industry."

The letter, sent to guild presidents Phillip Salvador, also volunteered PDEA's "technical assistance" to the efforts.

Santiago, who said he was friends with Salvador, has yet to receive a reply from the actor.

He said he would make "a personal follow-up" and maybe invite Salvador to his office for a dialogue.




**We invite all alumni, friends and partners to join in the Launch of the Ateneo Sesquicentennial Celebration on Sunday, June 14, 2009.**

ASSEMBLY
6:30AM - The Manila Cathedral Plaza in Intramuros

EUCHARISTIC CELEBRATION
7:00-8:00AM - The Manila Cathedral
His Eminence Ezekiel Cardinal Rosales, D.D.
Archbishop of Manila, Main Celebrant
Very Rev. Jose C. J. Magadia, S.J.
Philippine Province Superior
Society of Jesus, Manila
Fr. Bienvenido F. Nebres, S.J., President
Ateneo de Manila University, Concelebrant

PROCESSION
8:00-8:30AM - From the Manila Cathedral to the San Ignacio Church ruins on Sto. Lucia Street near the corner of Anda Street

ENSHRINEMENT & PROGRAM
8:30-9:00AM - Rites for the reconsecration of the San Ignacio Church walls

BREAKFAST BY INVITATION ONLY
9:00-9:30AM - At the open plaza across the San Ignacio Church ruins

MOTORCADE
9:30-10:00AM - From the San Ignacio ruins in Intramuros to the former Ateneo de Manila-Padre Faura Campus

10:00AM - Unveiling of marker

10:30-11:30AM - From the former Padre Faura Campus to the Ateneo Professional Schools-Salcedo Campus

11:30AM - Turnover of artifact

12:00-12:30PM - From the Salcedo Campus to the Ateneo Professional Schools-Rockwell Campus

12:30PM - Turnover of artifact

12:30-1:30PM - Program

1:45-2:30PM - From the Rockwell Campus to the Ateneo School of Medicine and Public Health in Pasay City

3:00PM - Unveiling of the Tribute Banners

3:30-4:00PM - From the ASMPH to the Ateneo de Manila-Loyola Heights Campus

CLOSING PROGRAM
3:30-5:00PM - Church of the Gesu

5:30-6:00PM - Presentation and Blessing of the Commemoratives

4:00-4:30PM - Turnover of artifacts to the Grade School, High School and Loyola Schools

5:00-5:30PM - Mini-Concert

For updates and a detailed calendar of events, visit 150.ateneo.edu or contact the Office of University Development and Alumni Relations at 426.6001 ext. 4081 to 89 or 150@ateneo.edu.

150 THE ATENEO WAY

# Abu Sayyaf kills 5 Marines

AL-QAEDA-LINKED EXTREMISTS holding an Indian Red Cross worker captive yesterday attacked a military outpost in Jolo, killing 5 soldiers and wounding 11 others, military officials said.

About 40 armed men believed to be members of the Islamic Abu Sayyaf group attacked a group of Marines and special operations police posting there outside Barung town on Jolo Island, said Marines spokesperson Lt. Col. Miguel Arevalo.

"They were treacherously fired upon," Arevalo said.

He claimed the rebels, who attacked with high-powered firearms and grenades, also suffered an undetermined number of deaths.

Arevalo said government troops were pursuing the attackers.

There was no word on Red Cross worker Eugenio Vagni, who is suffering from hypertension and hernia. He marked his 130th day in captivity yesterday.

On Thursday, Marines mauled an Abu Sayyaf stronghold near Indanan town close to Parang.

Two Marines and eight Abu Sayyaf militants were killed in that fighting, including two sons of Abu Sayyaf commander Abu Pula Jamdali and a son of another commander, Albader Parad.

Vagni was one of three International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) workers kidnapped on Jolo on Jan. 15. The Abu Sayyaf group, also said to have links to the regional terrorist network Jemaah Islamiyah, have freed the two others—Filipino Mary Jean Lacaba and Swiss Andreas Notter.

In a statement Thursday, ICRC Asia-Pacific spokesperson chief Alain Aeschlimann appealed to the kidnappers to release Vagni "safe and sound, unconditionally and without delay."

He said Vagni had called his wife on June 2.

"We are of course extremely concerned about Eugenio's safety and well-being. It is very upsetting and frustrating to admit that this crisis remains unresolved after almost five months," he said.

The Abu Sayyaf, said to have about 400 fighters, is on the United States list of terrorist organizations because of its al-Qaida links and many terrorist attacks, including those that have victimized Americans.

The group used to allies have turned to kidnappings to make money in recent years, raising concerns among Philippine and US security officials that ransom payments could evolve the group, which has been weakened by years of US-backed offensives.

It is believed to have raised more than $1.5 million last year through ransoms. AP, Reuters

**LAST HURRAH**

Outgoing Philippine Ambassador to Brunei Virginia H. Benavidez led the celebration of the 111th anniversary of the proclamation of Philippine Independence on June 12 for the last time upon completion of her diplomatic assignment. Newly retired AFP chief Gen. Alexander Yano has just been confirmed as the next envoy amid speculation that his premature retirement and eventual diplomatic posting was tied to the 2010 elections. CONTRIBUTED


ATENEO DE MANILA UNIVERSITY
LOYOLA SCHOOLS

150

APPLICATION PERIOD
for SCHOOL YEAR 2010-2011

Issuance of Application Forms for Freshman Applicants

In Metro Manila:
June 15 to August 14, 2009

In Provincial Testing Centers:
June 22 to August 14, 2009

Deadline for Submission of Completed Application Forms and Registration for the Ateneo College Entrance Test (ACET) for Freshman Applicants:
August 14, 2009, Friday

Registration for the ACET for Transfer Applicants (at Ateneo, Loyola Heights Campus)
November 16 to December 18, 2009

Transfer applicants from provincial schools may register for the ACET at our Provincial Testing Centers in Cagayan de Oro, Cebu, Davao, Iloilo, Naga and Zamboanga

SCHOLARSHIP
Scholarship grants are available for financially challenged students.

The Scholarship/Financial Aid Questionnaire must be secured and submitted together with the Application Form for Admission.

TESTING CENTERS

| | |
|---|---|
| Aklan | Infant Jesus Academy, Kalibo City |
| Albay | St. Agnes' Academy, Legaspi City |
| Batangas | St. Bridget's College, Batangas City<br>Cahossa Academy, Lipa City |
| Benguet | Baguio City National High School |
| Bohol | Holy Name University, Tagbilaran City |
| Bulacan | St. Paul College of Bocaue<br>Immaculate Conception School for Boys, Malolos |
| Cagayan | St. Paul University Philippines, Tuguegarao City |
| Camarines Sur | Ateneo de Naga High School |
| Cebu | Sacred Heart School - Jesuit, Cebu City |
| Davao del Sur | Ateneo de Davao High School |
| Ilocos Norte | Holy Spirit Academy of Laoag |
| Ilocos Sur | St. Paul College of Ilocos Sur |
| Iloilo | Ateneo de Iloilo High School |
| Laguna | Canossa College, San Pablo City |
| Lanao del Norte | La Salle Academy, Iligan City |
| Leyte | Holy Infant College, Tacloban City |
| Maguindanao | Notre Dame University, Cotabato City |
| Misamis Oriental | Xavier University High School, Cagayan de Oro City |
| Negros Occidental | University of St. La Salle, Bacolod City |
| Nueva Ecija | College of the Immaculate Conception, Cabanatuan City |
| Nueva Vizcaya | Saint Mary's University, Bayombong |
| Palawan | Holy Trinity College, Puerto Princesa City |
| Pampanga | Holy Angel University, Angeles City |
| Pangasinan | Edmas School, Dagupan City |
| Quezon | Sacred Heart College, Lucena City |
| South Cotabato | Hope Christian School, General Santos City |
| Surigao del Norte | St. Paul University, Surigao City |
| Tarlac | Don Bosco Technical Institute, Tarlac City |
| Zambales | Columban College, Olongapo City |
| Zamboanga del Sur | Ateneo de Zamboanga High School |

TESTING DATES

FOR FRESHMAN APPLICANTS
At Ateneo, Loyola Heights Campus, Quezon City:
September 19 & 20, 2009

At Provincial Testing Centers:
September 19, 2009, Saturday

FOR TRANSFER APPLICANTS
At Ateneo, Loyola Heights Campus, Quezon City:
January 17, 2010, Sunday

At Provincial Testing Centers in Cagayan de Oro, Cebu, Davao, Iloilo, Naga and Zamboanga ONLY:
January 16, 2010, Saturday

For more information, please contact:

Office of Admission and Aid
Loyola Schools
Ateneo de Manila University
Loyola Heights, Quezon City
Tel: 426-6001 loc. 5154 - 5155
Fax: 426-1214
Email: oaa@admu.edu.ph
Website: www.ateneo.edu

EXCELLENCE IS A CHOICE. EXCELLENCE IS THE ATENEO WAY.

Metrobank

ABENSON

Use your Metrobank Credit Card on 0% installment to get these exclusive offers.

Shop at least P 25,000 to get a

# FREE Nokia Mobile Phone!

Plus! Earn REWARDS on the DOUBLE

## NOKIA 1209 PHONE for only P800

when you shop at least P5,000 on installment

0% installment as low as P 1,333.33 / month

29" FLAT TV

P1,332

ADD P800 FOR NOKIA PHONE

0% INTEREST

## FREE NOKIA 1209 PHONE

0% installment as low as P 2,749.58 / month

32" LCD TV

P2,749

FREE NOKIA PHONE

0% INTEREST

FREE NOKIA PHONE

0% INTEREST

FREE NOKIA PHONE

0% INTEREST

0% installment as low as P 2,333.33 / month

# BUY 1 mobile phone GET A NOKIA 1209 FREE!

GET A NOKIA PHONE FREE

0% INTEREST


0% INTEREST

Keep using your Metrobank Credit Card!
For inquiries, call 8-700-700 ( Metro Manila ) or
1-800-1-888-5775 ( Domestic Toll-Free )

Metrobank
You're in good hands.

LIKE FAMILY (Above) "Some of the locals are now our best friends," say the Rafaelcindis, "although some are very, very shy. But they look out for our safety and needs." (Below) His private housing in the island but the restored couple lives in the former prison commander in Middleside, just below the barracks where Steve's father stayed 65 years ago.

THE LAST OF THE BIG GUNS S/Sgt/Sgt. Walter Rwiecinski was assigned to the last of Corregidor's big guns still in operation, the only one left to challenge the enemy the night the defenders retreated into the island's tunnel system in May, 1942.

AT HOME They don't pay rent for their one-bedroom house with kitchen, dining and sala area but have a 2-year contract to provide the Corregidor Foundation Inc. with services that include acting as tour guides, lecturers, researchers, etc.

# US couple retires in Corregidor to honor father

From page A1

regidor, and to all the Americ ans and Filipino veterans who fought here," explains Steve.

## Last of big guns

Steve's father, Staff Sgt. Walter Rwiecinski, was the sergeant assigned to the last of Corregidor's big guns still in operation and the only one left to challenge the Japanese the night the defenders retreated into the island's tunnel system in May 1942. He was captured and suffered the most brutal treatment for more than three years in Japanese prison camps.

Walter returned to Corregidor in 1960 to see his beloved tropical island paradise restored and transformed into a poignant memorial of heroism. He died in 1968. A plaque in honor him and one of the most heroic battles in the history of the war was installed in 2007 at Battery Way, the best preserved of Corregidor's five gun emplacements.

## Adventure begins

Steve first visited Corregidor with his youngest sister Pascale in 2002 when they joined a trip led by Valor Tours, America's oldest military tour operator.

"I was awestruck and emotionally overpowered," he says.

"I had seen a lot of Corregidor and Bataan [Province] as a child, but I was overcome by emotion that day since I had to support me so that I did not collapse on the dock when we landed at Corregidor. I was crying so hard that I almost couldn't see."

Much to now the island a year after and thought it was beautiful even if it was more rugged than she had expected.

In 2007, Steve became the tour leader of Valor Tours' annual "Ghost Soldiers" tour, a nine-day journey that takes in Manila, Corregidor, Bataan and the Japanese prison camps around Luzon. At a dinner for the tour group, Steve asked Lt. Col. Art Meiling, president of the Filipino-American Memorial Endowment and executive director of the Corregidor Foundation Inc. if it was possible for him and Marcia to live on Corregidor. He believed this would enable them to help preserve, protect and promote the island they had grown to love.

Meiling was elated at having residents on the island who spoke fluent with English-speaking visitors, particularly those interested in local WWII history. The Rwiecinskis joined the Special Resident Retiree's Visa, a retirement program run by the Philippine Retirement Authority for qualified foreigners who want to spend their retirement years in the country. They sold their house and almost everything they owned, and arrived on Corregidor in land with only four suitcases. The entire process took a year and a half.

## Modern-day Robinson Crusoes

There is no private housing on the island. Steve and Marcia live in the home of the former army commander on Middleside, just below the barracks where Steve's father stayed 65 years ago. The Rwiecinskis paid for the major renovations that the house needed. Because there is no electricity in this part of the island, they also had to install a solar system capable of powering lights, fans and a refrigerator. A generator supplements the power when there is no sunlight. The island has a cell site and they are able to connect to the Internet but the service is slow and not very reliable.

"Our water comes from one of the old US Army wells and is potable. The house has six bedrooms, a combination laundry/bathroom, kitchen and dining area, and a sala. We had a fiery kitchen built to back so we can cook and relax outdoors," says Steve.

The Rwiecinskis don't pay rent for their modest accommodation but have a three-year contract to provide the Corregidor Foundation Inc. with services that include that of being tour guides, lecturers, researcher, consultant and resident historian.

They have an old rainbow used jeep to get around the island and pay a boatman who comes every day to buy them vegetables and meat for them from the market in Cabcaben, Bataan. They go in Manila about once a month to shop for the things they can't get in Bataan.

## Historical treasure

Steve and Marcia have five children and five grandchildren living in the US, none of whom have been to the Philippines yet.

"They were surprised whenever told them about our plans to move to Corregidor but they seemed pleased we were pursuing their grandfather," says Marcia.

"We miss our families but we'll see them when we fly back for a visit in July. We hope they can all come over someday."

According to Steve, other Americans have lived on the island in the past, one of them a retired US Marine who stayed for more than 10 years.

"Almost all the locals are very nice to us, although some are very shy. They look out for our safety and needs. Some of them are our best friends now. The island community is quite small, so it's like family in many ways," says Marcia.

"We lose morning new people, especially Americans and Filipinos whose fathers fought in the war. We have Filipino friends such as children there, local tour guides and park aides. We've been introduced to squid and a whole lot of fish that are never heard of before," she says.

Steve and Marcia admit that dealing with the cultural differences can be frustrating but they are learning. "Trying to learn a new language at our age is very difficult," Marcia points out.

## No TV, hot water

"We can usually communicate in English, and many of our friends have improved their English by spending time with us. We are beginning to understand simple Tagalog," she says.

They live a low-key lifestyle without television, radio, hot water and seldom see a newspaper. When visitors start heading a time, they swim at the beach on the island's south side, and do a lot of hiking, exploring and reading.

"We've come from full-time employment to full-time retirement, from life in the cities cold USA to life on a quiet little tropical, often hot island," says Steve.

## Beautiful sunrises

"We've left all the conveniences to take on a much simpler lifestyle and we love it. It is unbelievable not to be able to spend time with. We wake up to the sound of birds. Sunrises are beautiful. We observe them from Topside, looking out over the 'tail' of the island. The sun is almost always obscured by low-lying clouds [or smog from Manila] so it doesn't appear right at sea level. Sunsets are also fantastic and just as beautiful if the sun sets over or near Mariveles, Bataan. Occasionally you can watch the sun sink into the ocean," he says.

Steve and Marcia hope to make every one aware of Corregidor, saying it's not just Americans who could benefit from visiting the island. They are shocked to how few Filipinos they meet know of Corregidor.

## So close to Manila

"So many Manila residents do not realize that they are so close to the best preserved battlefield of World War II. With fast Cruises providing day tours as well as having overnight accommodations available, it makes a very nice getaway," says Steve.

The island should be of interest not just for its history but for its nature sometimes as well, he says.

"People can come to see the birds, lizards, and monkeys, and really be kind to see unbelievable views. We want to ensure, however, that the island never turns into a tourist location that forgets its history" says Steve.

Steve and Marcia have written about the island and their adventures over the past seven months in a newsletter they send out at least once a week. To receive their e-mail newsletter, contact them at: arwiecinskiretired@gmail.com and rwiecinskiwalter@gmail.com.

# At P4,000 per day, Mabuhay Guides are RP's expert envoys

By [illegible] A1

phone the Philippines and being a Mabuhay Guide is my personal effort to be of service to the country," says Lalaine Teyng, 42, in a recent interview with the Inquirer.

Teyng and 29 other Filipino professionals represent the country's first batch of top-of-the-line tour guides commissioned by the Department of Tourism (DOT) to take VIPs and dignitaries on an "intelligent and engaging" sightseeing around Metro Manila's point of interest.

## Expansion plans

Trained intensively by Filipino national artists, cultural champions and the prestigious Unesco Bangkok-based Silsa Siaw Tourism Guide instructors for six weeks, the "Mabuhay Guides" are expected to drop everything the moment the DOT requires their service, says Teyng.

It sure becomes job was something him but he opted to go full-time as a Mabuhay Guide to help tourists, both foreign and local, realizing that there was much to discover about the Philippines, he says.

The Mabuhay Guides' itinerary also includes a cruise of the historic Pasig River and a bus tour along the Ermita-to Macapagal Boulevard, the capital's mecca of Filipino handicraft stores and restaurants. Recently, rich Filipino families.

The group is in the thick of establishing and expanding once routes to nearby cities like the financial capital, Makati City and provinces like Batangas, Cavite and Rizal, the seat of Filipino prehistoric art.

## Wowing VIP guests

While it has yet to draw more bookings from foreign visitors, its superstar—thanks to the rigorous training program designed by seasoned travels: Susan Calo-Medina—has wowed several foreign luminaries, including Gener with.

"She was very pleased [with the tour]," relates Undersecretary for tourism planning and promotions Rolan de Jesus Jr. in a phone interview.

Jaime says the DOT and its chief, Ace Durano, saw the need for professional and talented tour guides as tourists were starting to become the "hustle city" of the majority of local governments.

"The hotel industry is cyping, the local government units are suddenly thinking about tourism as [one] guiding plays a bigger and important role," he says. "We want visitors to have a better and beautiful experience to the places they visit in our country so they will come back next time."

## Experiential, entertaining

Betting gospel truths about a certain historic site or an artifact with minimal hard gestures is certainly not enough to pass for what a Mabuhay Guide would brand as "experiential and entertaining" guiding, says Teyng.

"We have to be creative to what we say but we also have to make use of our 'storing eye' to be able to tell somewhere and explain stories behind an artifact or a site," he relates.

The managing through performances, starting the historical and retailing books are a must if they want to deliver fascinating and fresh commentary, says Charlene Aquino-Tejada.

Tejada, 29, even keeps a dictionary of Philippine plants in her library a random reading moment that she feels would come in handy later in her older jobs.

Dos and pieces of historic facts and tales she draws from old people. "Everyone has a story to tell. Filipinos like to make [Aba chika (small talk)]," she says.

## History buff

Bryan Domingo, who works in an advertising firm, has sensed the duty to tell stories about Jose Rizal, the fanfare by Katipunan and other wonderful information he has picked up from history books since his elementary years.

As a child who loved to join history quiz bees in school, Domingo says he has shared time engaging friends in a conversation about history without sounding like a "geek" and a "nerdjock."

So when he joined a group of social studies teachers from Zamboanga and Rizal last month in a promenade around Fort Santiago and San Agustin Church, he felt at home.

There, he was bombarded with questions about the controversies that surrounded Rizal, including his height. He mentioned practice and the issue the national hero had kept on a shoe on the day of his execution.

"We keep on looking at our neighbors and their authentic culture but we have our own stories to tell. It's just a matter of telling them," Domingo says.

## Where's the toilet?

What gave school directress Lovely Reynoso a high while touring her New Yorker last month was her chance of not only presenting the Philippine Revival in Turban, Quezon—which happens to be her hometown—but also its people.

"They did not only enjoy the sights of the very colorful fiesta but they also had a taste of Filipino hospitality," Reynoso says.

The opportunity took place when suddenly, in the middle of their sightseeing, one of the tourists needed to use the bathroom, she recounts.

Since no public toilets were available, she made the guests adore at residents the most spectacularly decorated home and headed for its door.

As expected, the owners of the house were only too glad to accommodate them and even treated them to the toilet.

"The tourists were very amazed at how Filipinos can be very warm and accommodating even in short notice," Reynoso says.

## Like an ambassador

But a day in the life of a tour guide is not always filled with pleasant walking points.

There are awkward moments when tour groups, either on bus or on a bus, pass by disaster-hit areas in the city, or when they see beggars knocking on windows and "kalansi" boys (vendors) ply their wares in the middle of a traffic jam.

"We don't sugarcoat issues or glamorize an ugly scene, that's the rule," says Teyng. "But if we can't present a social picture in a glossy way, we have to present Filipino culture in a positive way so there's balance."

After all, he says, graduating as a Mabuhay Guide is like "being an ambassador of the country."

# Allies hail GMA run; opposition says better than Cha-cha

From page A1

Kampi-CMD, said Mr Arroyo's running for Congress was a "welcome development for Pampanga ... it means a competent representative."

Rey Gil Juanillo Guiao, a member of Kabalikat ng Malayang Pilipino (Kampi), the party founded by Mr Arroyo, said running for Congress was an option for Mr Arroyo, "as long as there's no legal impediment."

### 13 visits

The President has visited the second district 13 times since Feb. 24, visiting towns villages. The team has some of the most won-rich districts. The frequent visits and the scale of services she has brought there have invited questions and speculations as to her motives for 2010.

The incumbent representative of Pampanga's second district to the President's eldest son, Juan Miguel or Mikey, who is only in his second term.

### Better than Cha-cha

Opposition assistant welcomed Mr Arroyo's reported plans to run for Congress.

It is better than changing the Constitution so she can prolong her stay in power, said Sen. Francis Pangilinan.

Sen. Aquilino Pimentel said Mr Arroyo has finally had her catch on the table.

"The move swallowed the queen and checkmated what she has been shielding from the public eye: indeed between her bosom and it is a semblance of candidacy," Pimentel said in a statement.

"What's his basis for saying that? He has not talked to the President about it. I know of no Cabinet official who has spoken to the President about any plans of hers to run as member of Congress," he said.

Chandru, who is the secretary general of the administration Lakas-Kampi-CMD, disputed that Mr Arroyo disclosed her plans to run at the Ledac, calling it "preposterous."

He said neither the 2008 elections nor Charter change was mentioned at the meeting, which focused only on one item—the revenue measures that are pending in Congress.

"In what context would the President talk about it? He were all there. The President could not have spoken about such a plan. You ask anybody who was there. There was no mention about talk of 2010 from anyone," he said.

But he confirmed that Arroyo's decision was at the Ledac meeting.

### More denial

Edgardo Pantoncan, the head of Malacañang's external affairs office and chair of the Lucas Urban Bulwagan super region, also said Pangasinanon had been hearing said that Mr Arroyo would run for Pampanga representative.

He said he had just arrived and expressed amazed him if he was running for congressman. He said he was open to it. He said it was his option. It's not true that he said that GMA is running for Congress," Pantoncan said.

Pangasinanon did not answer or return calls from the Inquirer.

But he told ABS-CBN where Sen Ilito Friday that he was "probably misquoted" and that he was discussing his own plans for the 2010 elections.

"I was asked by some friends in the media that they had heard reports that I'm also running for Congress in the 2010 elections. I told them that I'm not affected by reports and I will declare this with my political allies in the province of Misamis," he told ABS-CBN.

### Witnesses

A human chain of the governments Philippines News Agency who was present at the luncheon where Pangasinanon made the statements about Mr Arroyo's candidacy plans has refused to make any comment on what he heard.

Noel Pascualan, bureau chief of the PNA in Central City, said he felt there was no misunderstanding after Pangasinanon followed up what he had said about Mr Arroyo with a remark that it was "off the record."

Oscar Santjardin, the ABMS executive secretary who was also present at the luncheon said yesterday he had spoken to Pangasinanon, but refused to answer calls.

Mr Arroyo's political plans after 2010 have become a touchy issue in the face of the administration-sponsored Charter change campaign, seen by her critics as a ploy to keep her in power through a parliamentary system.

### Delicadeza

Jun Fernando, archbishop Francisco Mercene, acknowledged to be the President's spiritual adviser, is also in the dark about her plans. "They last met in Iloilo [when during her visit there on May 31].

"I am sure the President will subject this to prayerful discernment and see what is for the common good of the people," Mercene said.

Pampanga Gov. Eddie Panlilio, a critic of the President, said Mr Arroyo's possible candidacy could be linked to Cha-cha and to protect her from prosecution after she steps down.

"That is her right as a Filipino. There is no legal impediment. But out of delicadeza, she should not orchestrate the mangling of the Constitution to perpetuate herself in power," he said.

### Opposition

Crusading lawyer Frank Chavez does not want three more years of Mr Arroyo, and said she should "retire and enjoy her riches peacefully."

Party-list member Teodoro Casiño said the move is aimed at protecting herself and her family from prosecution after her term ends.

But "a seat in Congress, even if she were elected Speaker, would not give GMA immunity from criminal suits," said Casiño, another party-list member. Rafal Ocampo. *With reports from Michael Lim Ubac and Leila Salaverria, Helen Mendez, Nestor P. Burgos Jr., Inquirer Visayas, and Charlie Tobias, Inquirer Mindanao*

# Ping on why Raul sacked: 2 mortal sins

From page A1

have never struck a deal with Malacañang. It's never strike a deal with Malacañang. It's even worse than signing a pact with the devil."

According to Lacson, Gonzalez was booted out of the justice department and transferred to the office of the Chief Presidential Legal Counsel for committing two mortal sins against President Macapagal-Arroyo.

### Two sins

The first is Gonzalez's failure to follow the script in handling the double-murder case.

The apparent sin of omission was when "he committed a blunder," Lacson said.

The second offense was a sin of "commission," or Gonzalez's meddling in a case between a Chinese tuipan and his brother.

Lacson refused to name names, although sources in halls for Senate and the business community told the Inquirer that he was referring to Lucio Tan and his younger brother Mariano Tanenglian.

"One blunder and one commission—two strong reasons why Gonzalez was sacked based on my information," Lacson said, but declined to reveal his sources.

### No cooptation with Palace

Lacson said he was not coup-ted by Malacañang or the justice department would go easy on him in connection with the double murders in which he, along with former President Joseph Estrada, was implicated, as the bribes by his former aide, former Senate Supt. Cesar O. Mancao II.

"I have no money to spend for campaigning. There's no other reason aside from that," he said.

Citing financial reasons, Lacson withdrew from the presidential race on June 5 in a pre-recorded interview, which was aired on the start of broadcast debates sponsored by ANC, ABS-CBN and the University of the Philippines' School of Economics.

### Announcement

The dramatic announcement was made barely a day after Mancao returned to the country. On June 9, the Senate announced Gonzalez's replacement.

Gonzalez had been in the think of preparations for Mancao's return, telling the Inquirer in an interview in the Manila Hotel on May 20 that the timing of the rise was "perfect."

He said Lacson, who was chief of the Philippine National Police when Dacer and Corbito were abducted and later executed in Indang, Cavite.

As to the timing of his withdrawal, Lacson reiterated that he had made up his decision not to run for President on May 11, but he had to delay the announcement for the sake of his supporters.

### Scriptease

Lacson vehemently offered this "information" which he supposedly obtained from his sources in the intelligence community.

While admitting that Gonzalez's dismissal was irrevocably "linked" to the Dacer-Corbito case, he said the group of Maj. Gen. Benjamin Pimentel, chief of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP-Onib), ganged up on Gonzalez for allegedly benefiting the government victims in the double murder.

Lacson claimed that the plan of Pimentel and company was to keep Lacson in the dark about the decision of Mancao to turn state witness and the date of his return from the United States.

But Gonzalez couldn't keep his mouth shut, and in a "striptease" fashion gave the whole country the blow by blow account of the whole strategy, said Lacson.

Gonzalez even enlisted a supposed "spy called" himself Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita.

### Primary Palace emissary

"This has basis. First, the people who have really worked or got Mancao (at state witness) to turn against me are Gonzalez with the assistance of more members of the Philippine Military Academy Class of 78 led by General Pimentez," said Lacson.

Pimentez was chief of the Presidential Security Group from 2007 to 2008.

Lacson said Pimentez, not Gonzalez, was the primary Palace emissary who had contacted Mancao and his family.

"Gonzalez has nothing to do with (the work) started in getting Mancao," said Lacson.

### Promises to Mancao

The senator said Mancao was so moved that he would be returned to his former rank in the PNP and his family relocated to Singapore in exchange for his testimony against him.

"He (Mancao) was promised so many things, and this has been cleared with Malacañang because when he was being convinced by Pimentez and company, he (Mancao) had contacted Malacañang," he said.

"Gonzalez has nothing to do with (the work) started in getting) Mancao," said Lacson.

### Promises to Mancao

The senator said Mancao was so moved that he would be returned to his former rank in the PNP and his family relocated to Singapore in exchange for his testimony against him.

"He (Mancao) was promised so many things, and this has been cleared with Malacañang because when he was being convinced by Pimentez and company, he (Mancao) had contacted Malacañang," he said.

Lacson said Gonzalez had talked with his younger brother to "get information and evidence against the elder subject—Of course, Gonzalez is influential, so he informed Malacañang about it."

Lacson said the tapes went straight to President Arroyo.

Since 1997, the suspect's family has a case pending with the Sandiganbayan for alleged illegal gambling.

"Gonzalez took advantage of this and talked with the youngest brother to get his statement. Whatever the motive—to get money from both sides—coz he's forever," Lacson said in his press.

The Inquirer sought comment from the Time through a media relations officer but they had not replied at press time.

### Misinformed

Sought for comment, Gonzalez, defended Lacson's claims.

Gonzalez said he never broke the news about the three in pending extradition of Mancao from the United States to the Philippines. It was the family of their publicist Bocor, he said.

"He (Lacson) is misinformed there," he told the Inquirer by phone.

On the matter of the tapes and his brothers, Gonzalez said: "I would rather [Lacson] come there (prosecutor's office) prepared properly."

Gonzalez said he had no idea why the senator came up with such claims. "Anybody can hold a pressers and talk about contracts, lies and speculations."


**RUSH SALE!**
Condo Unit 28R, 17B. 38sqm.
Bahay Caridad
back of Puregold Q.I.,
E. Rodriguez, QC
0917-8970835
0922-8188266

**HURRY RESERVE NOW!**
to avail of
**BIG DISCOUNTS**
for Canyon Woods
Promo Lots
0917-8970835
0922-8188266

idec
Split Type Wall Mounted Aircon
1hp-P16,500
Free Installation!

3M Pizza Pie
FRANCHISE NOW!


## The Rise of Pangasius Industry in the Philippines

On June 11, 2009, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo witnessed the turnover of the pangasius (catfish) starter from the BFAR's Food Terminal Inc. (FTI) to the Pangasius Techno Demo Facility at the Dolores Farm in Polomolok, South Cotabato. In her speech, she highlighted the crucial role NDEF played in the culture of pangasius which will greatly help in the economic recovery of the nation.

In the same event, a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA), expressing support to the propagation of pangasius industry in Regions 10, 11 and 12 was entered into between the Mindanao stakeholders, including fish contract growers and feeds suppliers. Under this agreement, the government agencies are responsible for the provision of funding support for technology transfer trainings/ seminars, experience or research and market development, and trade negotiations to farmer growers.

With this partnership project, NDEF aims to assist in the technical advisory as well as the processing of pangasius products for local and export markets in the region. These objectives are aligned in the Comprehensive Livelihood and Emergency Employment Program (CLEEP) - one of the Department of Trade and Industry's (DTI) Program 12 tackle projects under the GMA administration to provide livelihood and ensure food security in the Philippines.

According to DTI Assistant Director Erlendo Delima, the production of pangasius aims to substitute imports (about 50,000 MT from Vietnam) for its domestic markets.

The production and processing of pangasius catfish is a collaborative project of DTI, Region 12, Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR), 10, and the NDEA.

Food International Press, Inc.

The Mindanao University is pioneering in the production of pangasius. According to NDEA Senior Vice President E. Oliver Dante and Chairman Mr. Roger C. Rivera, Mindanao is a viable location in the production of pangasius to supply the demands in the domestic and export markets and scale to the potential of the export market, and NDEA will be a part in the development of the industry. Mr. Rivera also personally joined the same three provide services in additional jobs.

NDEA Food International Phils., Inc., a processing plant and export marketing arm of NDEA Corporation is located at Puting Bato, Calumpang, General Santos City. At present, we sell tilapia export grade shrimps, silver mackerel, dalag, catfish and yellowfin tuna, and other seafoods products for the export markets. Its state-of-the-art processing facilities can process 20 tons per day. NDEA owns two processing plants and two cold storage facilities with a combined capacity of over 3,000 metric tons a day and has 48 Tuna Strips refrigerated.

NDEA Power Farms and Hatcheries provide high-quality grouper, snapper, milk fish, and pangasius fingerlings. It has a total area of 50 hectares, producing around 300 metric tons of Cobia or Sergeant fish, Milk Fish, and Hamachi (Kinsa) during each batch after in Japan and the United States.

NDEA Power Farms and Hatcheries provide high-quality grouper, snapper, milk fish, and pangasius fingerlings. It has a total area of 50 hectares, producing around 300 metric tons of Cobia or Sergeant fish, Milk Fish, and Hamachi (Kinsa) during each batch after in Japan and the United States.

ISSN 0115-2432 INQUIRER VOL. XXXVI, NO. 180

# OPINION

## Mafioso republic

EDITORIAL

LET US GIVE CREDIT WHERE IT'S DUE: THE OFFICERS and men of the Philippine National Police who followed all the leads, did the necessary sleuthing, recovered the body of Ruby Rose Bacaltos Jimenez and filed charges for her murder. It was, indeed, a "horrifying, indescribable, unthinkable" murder.

But even as the PNP has zeroed in on her estranged in-laws and other possible accomplices, relatives of five other missing persons have come forward. They allege that a pattern of Mafia-style killings has emerged in Navotas and Cavite, and they point to Manuel Jiménez Jr. and his brother, Lope, as the culprits. The two are precisely the main suspects in the murder of their in-law, Ruby Rose.

The particularly sad and gruesome story of Ruby Rose may yet turn out to be the most publicized of a long string of ruthless robberies. To be sure, our country is in the ominous situation of being a land where the law has a short, increasingly feeble reach, and where there are those who hold in their hands the power of life or death, depending on whether they like or dislike someone else.

We don't have to go into details because the stories, in broad strokes, play out in the headlines every day: A journalist criticizes a ruling dynasty in a province and is murdered. The same fate befalls farmers who want to own the land they till, or an in-law who discovers the illegal and bloody source of her husband's family's prosperity, or a golfer who works for a high official and runs off with his boss' car from various official rackets or gets caught in the indelicate act of conspiring high officials. There are untouchable people, in and out of government, and any criticism of them can be easily dealt with by means of a bullet—or Swahili torture, followed by something straight out of a Hollywood Mafia movie.

This is the true state of the nation.

But in July, President Macapagal-Arroyo will try to weave a different tale. And why not? Her values are not the public's values, we've known this for a long time. Confronted by foreign and domestic concern over the disappearance of leftists, she publicly praised Jovito Palparan. We won't be surprised if she does something similar—like expressing her moral outrage over pedophilia while asking Ronnie Jalosjos' wife to stand up and be applauded.

After all, last June 9, the President, during her visit to Dipolog, inaugurated Rizalny Land, a theme park owned by former Representative Jalosjos. She cut the ribbon with the disgraced convicted child molester by her side—his presence made possible because she had pardoned him. Perhaps it was all par for the political course, since Cecilia U. Jalosjos-Carreon and Cesar G. Jalosjos voted for House Resolution 1109. And perhaps the President felt that outside the capital, no one would notice her hobnobbing with Jalosjos—except the Philippine Information Agency which trumpeted the visit.

Which tells us that there may be a view of right and wrong, appropriate and inappropriate, that applies to Juan de la Cruz, but that it is no pedestrian accounting for someone as lofty as the President of the Philippines. She seems to consider herself beyond right or wrong, or even beyond matters of questionable political taste.

This has a direct impact, of course, on efforts of politicians and other people trying to do their jobs, in the interest of justice and for the maintenance of law and order. We know there are many decent officers and men in the armed forces and police who remain devoted to professionalism. But what can they do, if to the commander in chief, government is simply about those having the gold making the rules—and with utter impunity?

From Ruby Rose's family life—the custody battle for her children—to the alleged rubout of her in-laws' business rivals, to media people, farmers, activists, businessmen killed by people like those whoever are behind Ruby Rose's murder, to the symbolism of a President subbing elbows with convicted felons and child molesters, we are in a country where the Mafia rules the roost.

Publisher Isaac Tuason
Editor-in-Chief Letty Jimenez-Magsanoc
Managing Editor Jose Ma. D. Nolasco
Associate Editor Alejandro S. Llamzon
Associate Editor for Health Dr. Rhoda A. Gavilan, M.D.
Opinion Editor Jesus V. Arao
News Editor Antonio T. Enriquez Jr. • Chief, Page One Operations Paul B. Pudum
Chief, News Desk Ruben G. Alejandro
Assistant Editor Francisco B. Bautista Jr.
Senior Desk Editor Jaime V. Sandoval Jr.
Associate Desk Editors Jocelyn Dimayuga
Chief Photographer Ernie U. Sarmiento
Art & Design Director Lisbeth B. Palabrica

Board Chairman Helen Y. Dee
President Alexandre Pierre Augustin
Senior Vice President for Sales and Marketing Rhoda B. Ramos
VP for Advertising Felix R. Ocampo
AVP for Circulation Susan Sison B. Tan

All rights reserved.
Except for brief quotations in news reports or critical articles or reviews, no part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without the prior written permission of the publisher.

## Useless one without the other

SEPARATE OPINION

*Jaygood A. Cruz*

I BLAME THE CURRENT CONTROVERSY ON the piecemeal constitutional amendments. You may not see any ambiguous provisions in the Constitution as of 1987 that the Constitutional Commission of 1986 drafted with all supposed care and resolution. That questionable title is found, incredibly, in Art. XVII on Amendments and Revisions of the post-Marcos document trailing partly as follows:

"Section 1. Any amendment to, or revision of, this Constitution may be proposed by: (1) The Congress, upon a vote of three-fourths (3/4) of its Members, or (2) a constitutional convention." (Emphasis supplied).

The body that approved it consisted of an impressive membership headed by a former justice of the Supreme Court, Cecilia Muñoz Palma, as president, and veteran legislator and law practitioner, Jaime Ty Ongpin, as vice president. It included a former and future chief justice, Roberto Concepcion and Hilario G. Davide Jr., two future justices of the Supreme Court, Florenz D. Regalado and Adolfo S. Azcuna, three time Speaker Jose D. Lozada Jr., the estimable Blas F. Ople, Lorenzo Sumulong, and Francisco Rodrigo from the Senate, respected civic leaders like Christian Monsod and Joe Nebrida, and Joaquin G. Bernas from the Catholic Church, among many other public figures.

Any one of them could have easily recognized the obvious weakness of the above-cited provision that is now invoked as the basis of the (independent) action being plotted in the lower House against the Senate.

Speaker Prospero Nograles and his compatriots are arguing that pursuant to "the Constitution itself," any change in the fundamental law may be proposed by the House of Representatives despite the non-participation of the Senate. Even if the framers were to join their colleagues in the lower House, they would be stressed with the required three-fourths vote coming exclusively from the lower House, where the required concurrence could easily be expected from the mostly obedient cohorts of Malacañang.

True, if we go by the clear wording of the constitutional provision now invoked by Speaker Nograles and his clueless. The inquorial House does this unnecessary does not distinguish between the members of the lower House and the members of the Senate, but can simply come from the lower House as "Members of Congress" who alone can propose to change the Constitution. This interpretation conforms to the accepted norm that the clear wording of a provision must be found in the document itself, in its language that best indicates the intendment of the framers when they adopted the rule in question.

According to Dellee Bernas, however, that distinction must be inferred from the fact that Congress is a bicameral body consisting of two separate and distinct chambers that "cannot join the contrary is indicated. This is exemplified by the approval of bills where the two chambers act in tandem as equal partners in a dual legislature, without the necessity of the Constitution indicating those togetherness in the performance of their common acts. That is the reason, for example, why in statutory construction in Art. XVII, Sec. 1(1) that the required 3/4 concurrence of the members of Congress meant the separate participation of both Houses of Congress, to give validity to their common decisions. Otherwise, the action alone of the House of Representatives to propose the Constitution without the Senate would be like a wedding with the bride but not the groom.

That is a plausible theory, except that Art. VI, Sec. 25 (1) consistently says that: "The Congress by a vote of 2/3 of both Houses in joint session assembled, voting separately, shall have the sole power to declare the existence of a state of war." Art. VII, Sec. 18 similarly provides that, in case of a vacancy in the Office of the Vice President, the President shall nominate a member of Congress who shall assume office "upon confirmation by a majority vote of all the Members of both Houses of the Congress, voting separately." Upon the proclamation of martial law or the suspension of the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus, "within forty-eight hours from the proclamation or suspension, the President shall submit a report in person or in writing to the Congress, voting jointly, by vote of at least a majority of all its Members in regular or special session" may revoke the presidential acts.

Is the proposal to amend or revise the Constitution less important than the above situations where the exercise of the members of the Congress voting (Congress or separately by majority or two-thirds vote is specifically indicated? It is true that a bill granting a tax exemption under Art. VI, Sec. 28(4), and the declaration of amnesty under Art. VII, Sec. 19 are subject to the concurrence of all the members of the Congress, without more from the fussy Constitution. I do not believe, however, that such simple premise can be expected on such an epochal question as the amendment or revision of the Constitution.

The inadequacy of Art. XVII, Sec 1(1) would have been obvious to a law freshman but did not bother the experts in the Constitutional Commission of 1986 who should have known that one of the qualities of a good written constitution is clarity. They probably simply copied the Constitution of 1972 that established a unicameral legislature and thought they had done a great job.

## Dine-in or take-out?

MOMENTS

*Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, STD*

THE STORY IS TOLD ABOUT A STREET PRIEST in giving communion to the faithful, would sometimes encounter communicants who would approach him with open hands and also with open mouths. How did he deal with the confusion? After saying, "The Body of Christ," he would tell them: "OK. Make up your mind. Dine-in or take-out?"

* * *

Today is the Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ, also known as Corpus Christi Sunday. In today's Gospel (Mk. 14, 12-16, 22-26) we hear of Jesus giving His body and blood to His disciples at the Last Supper. It was His way of saying that He was one and united with them. The same privilege is given to us now in the Eucharist. As He promised, He is with us, always.

* * *

We did not mean to be synonyms to the Eucharist with our opening joke in this column today, the question "Dine-in or take-out?" underlines a very important point about our reception of the Eucharist, and that is, that the Eucharist should be both a dine-in and a take-out experience. We invite the Eucharist (divine) and we also live the Eucharist in our daily lives as well. We must bring to the Communion table and active aspect of the Eucharist in our lives. All our actions should lead to the Eucharist, and all our actions must proceed from our encounter and empowerment from the Lord in the Eucharist. In other words, the Eucharist is both a "in to" and a "to go" experience.

* * *

In view of the swine flu (H1N1) virus which is prevalent these days, the Archdiocese of Manila has instructed that during Mass, communion will be received by the hand, and that there will be no holding of hands during the "Our Father." How, but why does not in any way lessen nor remove from us two very important aspects of our Christian life, i.e., to receive the Lord with clean hearts and to extend our loving and helping hands to our brothers and sisters wherever we are, in whatever situation our service.

* * *

The spirit of the Eucharist is that of sharing and love. I don't see any of that in the planned convening of a constituent assembly by the House of Representatives. It is sad, infuriating and frustrating to see our so-called leaders abandoning their conviction because of convenience, their mission because of ambition, even their very creed because of greed. Is that why they call Congress the "lower house"? How low can you get?

* * *

June 19 is the Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. I recently had a good devotional talk on the solemn devotion of the Sacred Heart. Jose Gonzales never missed his first Friday Mass, and the first thing he looked for in all his travels was a church. Even the logo in his cellphone was the image of the Sacred Heart. He loved the Sacred Heart, and he loved the Sacred Heart, spreading joy, generosity and peace. The first time I met him in 2002 in Vancouver, he noticed my worn out shoes, and right away he told me "Father Jerry, come, let us get you a new pair of shoes." Just like that. That was Jose—so free, spontaneous and generous.

* * *

June 20 is the Feast of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. The purity and simplicity of heart of Mama Mary was the secret of her peace amid her many trials and sufferings. Some weeks ago, I met Mr. Lucio Tiansay who, at the age of 95, still plays by heart classical piano pieces, and has such a clear mind and memory. Recently, I heard her confessions, then I gave her the advice and absolution. As I was about to leave, she called me over and said: "Father, you forgot to give me my penance." Wow. Such clarity of mind and purity of heart!

* * *

By the way, we should not take lightly the recent hidden cameras scandal. The last is, there is a hidden camera on each one of us that covers all and records all. There is no eye that is all-seeing and a being that is all-knowing. This is a consolation for good people and a warning for bad people. Yes, there is divine justice. Sooner or later, it will catch up. Let us not lose heart; we should see every day those who prosper by evil ways.

* * *

PHILIPPINE SEI CENTENNIAL MOMENT: The Society of the Divine Word (SVD) came to the Philippines in August 1909. The Blue Scapular (S.Sp.S) followed in January 1912. The Pink Rosary (O.Sp.SSP) arrived November 1921. All these three congregations were founded by St. Arnold Janssen. Their very story, St. Arnold Janssen instilled devotion to the Eucharist in the Arnoldus family. In fact, the Pink Sisters all over the world do a 24- hour adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in their convents. The Pink Sisters have a Perpetual Adoration convent in Quezon City (Miranda Street, Project 6, Quezon Cmdo.), Adlas (New Washington), Cebu (Mandaue), Baguio City (Scout Road) and in Tagaytay where the Eucharistic Lord is adored daily non-stop, 24/7, from the setting of the sun until its rising.

* * *

**A moment with the Lord**

*Lord, remind me that the Eucharist is not just a 'meal' to be shared, but a mission to be lived. Amen.*

# Tollways for progress

**WITH DUE RESPECT**

*Antonio V. Pangalangan*

NOTED PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL ARROYO and Metro Pacific Tollways Corp. (MPTC) chair Manuel V. Pangilinan recently unveiled the P38-billion MPTC road network project, they were celebrating not only (IMO) 62nd birthdate but also the largest private tollroad investment in the Philippines.

Confidence in the future. The MPTC project demonstrates a deep confidence in the resiliency of the economy and a vote of confidence in us by ourselves. Even when the Philippines—in quote Romulo Neda, secretary-general of the National Economic and Development Authority—"is the envy of our neighbors."

Indeed, this infrastructure commitment will help spur the economy on the heels of a measly 4 percent GDP growth of our country during the first quarter of this year, the worst result—in seasonally adjusted terms—since the country's formation in decades. It will create 107,000 jobs during the five-year construction period.

This P38 billion will be used by MPTC, first, in building a P12 billion, toll-free, four-lane elevated to connect Mindanao Avenue in Quezon City to the North Luzon Expressway (NLEX) entry in Valenzuela City. Construction is on going and is expected to be finished in April 2010. Travel time from North Avenue, QC, to Balintawak will be cut to only 15 minutes. MPTC will not collect tolls for this segment in exchange for a seven-year extension of its NLEX franchise—to 2030 vs. 2037.

Second, MPTC will construct a P26 billion, 3 kilometer tunnelto connecting the NLEX to the Macarthur Highway in Valenzuela plus a 3-level, onward extension to the Daang Hari in Manila, Skyway in Muntinlupa and cargo traffic bypass between the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport and the piers in Manila. Construction of this portion will begin in early 2010.

The third will be a P30 billion, 33-km. totally elevated skyway near the existing railway routes, connecting the NLEX with the South Luzon Expressway (SLEX) in Bicutan, Makati. A Memorandum of Agreement between the MPTC and the state-owned Philippine National Railways to allow the use of the airspace above the PNR rails was inked early this year. This PLDT-SLEX Skyway Connector will cut travel time between these mega-great highways to only 15 minutes.

Fourth, MPTC is now in final negotiations with Citra Metro Manila Tollways Corp. to increase its minority stake in the CLEX so it could help finance the construction of the Skyway between Bicutan and Alabang, at an estimated cost of P10 billion.

NLEX and SCTEX. In August last year, Metro Pacific Investments Corp. (MPIC), the parent firm of MPTC, acquired a controlling 67 percent stake in the NLEX from the San Miguel-Ayala Holdings Corp. and Kenneth Rodriguez for P11.5 billion.

NLEX is the most modern tollway here, as per with international standards. Its 66-lane) state-of-the-art electronic (ETC) cameras, unsurprisingly placed along its 92-km span, monitor traffic and detect over-speeding vehicles all the time. It also operates 381 CCTV cameras that all transactions in all tollbooths 24 hours daily.

The NLEX connects with the new Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway (SCTEX) ever which is but an operations and maintenance contract. The SCTEX, in turn, is the feeder road to the Clark International Gateway Inn, which was finished in July 2007, and the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport in Clark into a logistical hub.

Other tollway projects being eyed by MPTC and other companies are the extension of the SLEX to La Union; the connection of the new Tarlac Expressway in Santiago to the SLEX and its extension to Batangas; as well as the extension of the Coastal Expressway along Manila Bay, all the way to Hamilo, Batangas, via the tourist haven of Tanauan Coast and Punta Fuego.

On a purely commercial basis, these long-term projects may not be viable due to insufficient traffic. However, the Japan Bank for International Cooperation, which funded both the NLEX and the Subic link, has shown willingness to finance the Tarlac to La Union expressway at the same concessionary terms. A private consortium of Filipino contractors has also expressed interest to finance, construct and operate it.

**"Three profits" and "go."** To share the notion MPTC is modernizing Philippine highways, it has brought—in cooperation with its French partner, the Ayala Group—the efficient and honest directors of its affiliates (Manila North Tollways Corp. and Tollways Management Corp.) to finance its donation from non-expressways are expected. Ayala is one of the biggest supermarket operators in Europe.

Led by MPTC president Raymundo Fernandez, expressway enthusiasts—including me—are now with registered, well-constructed and well-maintained roads that are safe, secure and available 24 hours daily. More important, the "three wells" and the inseparable "up" spread progress to the whole country. Tollways are the arteries of the nation. When healthy and smooth, they bring nutrients and strength to the body politic. But when neglected and clogged, they bring death and death.

From Paris non-stop to Lyon, we rode the TGV Inouie. At 250 km per hour (kph) cruising speed, they are the fastest things on wheels. The Maglev in Shanghai, which zooms up to 301 kph, does not run on wheels but on magnetic waves (a la sticks.) We were whisked to Lyon (about the same distance as Manila to Lucena) in two hours. Indeed, MPTC should also invest in super trains in complement its tollways. But that's another story deserving a full column someday.

---

*Comments are welcome at* ibo@inquirer.com.ph *and* ibo@hotmail.com

# Declaration of Independence

"WE ARE NOT PRO-ADMINISTRATION. WE ARE FOR ANYone who is good for the country."

So says Bonnie Bustamante, of Makati Inc. Bayan Inc (MBBI), an organization composed of "God-centered, enlightened, compassionate, decision-loving people" that "seeks to disseminate correct values."

Their "anyone good for the country" opposes to be solidly President Macapagal-Arroyo. Bustamante is a former member of President Arroyo, along with the group's convenor, Dr. Evelyn Mijares. These are the same women behind the 2005 advertorials published across national newspapers that announced "We prefer GMA to chaos" at the height of the Hello Garci scandal. The Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism reported that the ads accounted for 12 percent of all the political ads for the year. According to the group, the ads "appear just with spending of over P3 million. Last year, Mijares' group placed full page newspaper ads calling for "truth not rage" at the height of the P329.46 million ZTE broadband deal controversy.

**METHOD TO MADNESS**

*Patricia Evangelista*

In the last few weeks, the "Makati Inc. Bayan Inc" agreement placed ads in major Metro Manila newspapers calling for a shift in government, just as the House of Representatives decided to convene itself into a constituent assembly.

MBBI has a core group of 30 metro and upright citizens. They want Charter change, and they want it now. The presidential form of government, says Bustamante, inevitably "breeds incompetence." Added Mijares, "Kasi 'di nga ba? Sinuspinde nga ni Marcos ang Constitution, nagawa niya ang mga gusto niyang gawin." (Isn't it true? Marcos suspended the Constitution, he was able to do what he wanted.)

Bustamante and Mijares are not the first to propose the parliamentary system as the "lasting solution to the perennial problem of unwarranted corruption spawned by the very system we seek to change." Other proponents include all those with the best intentions in their hearts. Even Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile of the House of Representatives and Senate should rein as a whole or separately to amend the Constitution.

I have nothing against changing the Charter—when I know what is being changed, when I believe the changes are for the national good, when I trust the motives of the people behind them. Right now, I do not. I do not trust the administration. I believe the public will go along with giving Congress a blank check. Quezon Rep. Lorelei Fajardo, a member of Kampi, said that the resolution needs "talk the senators and congressmen that let's sit down and discuss what changes should be done in the Constitution, that's it." The rush and railroading in the House of Representatives is a need to "sit down and discuss," a need that can easily be fulfilled after 2010, with a new president holding a new mandate. It does not explain why the gentlemen of the House have so much separate committee approval to change the name of a road in Caloocan, but believe a whole system of government can change while the Senate is forced to be maligned by.

HB 1109 was an insult to the national intelligence, and the patronizing advertisements and interviews rolled out by groups supporting this version of Charter change only assure these fears. Under the democratic institutions. This is a country where the two houses of Congress do not make the people for the system. HB 1109 is a manifestation of how even the fundamentals of the presidential system—the check and balance of the House and the Senate—can be ignored if the men in power are sudden enough. The same sudden leaders will say, MGBE's beloved parliament, the same revenge jackasses will spit the product of their own hands, and the people will be right in the center of damaged institutions. So another Villar will skip his own aides hearing, yet another Arroyo will rail against some vague notion of immorality, there will be worse issuing and guilt-laced snatching, and the grand comical will go on, only it will have a different name.

There will be no attempt to try to convince, copy the administration. I doubt if even its spokespeople believe their own rubrics. If elections are allowed in 2010, and a new president decides that the presidential system has failed, if debates in Congress are allowed to flourish, if there is public discourse and faith in the leadership, then there is no reason why Charter change cannot happen. Anyone, there is a plan, and a process, all of which the Constitution laid out in 1986.

Proponents say the time is now—"if not now, when?"—because this is the only administration that will permit immediate change in the Charter. Perhaps they should ask why.

2010 is more than the faint of possibility that there is one man—or woman—the nation can trust enough to support. I have little faith in leaders and heroes, but there is no other time than 2010 when that leader is needed, if only to force out the dirt of the last administration. This time, it must be the right dirt. Perhaps not few months, or no more yes, will be the tipping point, the moment that will decide whether the country Hillary Clinton so delightfully overpandered "as a beacon of democratic values to the world" will reach back for its independence or toss rebel's bolt to a gang of thieves.

---

**THEY SAID**

**IT challenge**

"I challenge any of them. I give them 30 years to do it. In the time since the AFM (ad[illegible]) rebellion. None of these oliver in Congress who talk about 'garbage in, garbage out' can even back into their own papers."

—Makati City Rep. Teodoro Locsin Jr. on efforts to distinguish the Philippine Independent Church from members of Iglesia ni Cristo, which Locsin joined in leaving and departing

# Flu scares and realities

**AT LARGE**

*Rina Jimenez-David*

I DON'T THINK THE LOCAL MEDIA WOULD BE so insane until someone in the country actually dies from A(H1N1) flu.

Reports of new cases, with news that the Philippines currently has the highest number of A(H1N1) cases in Southeast Asia, local media are all agog searching for new sites of contagion and escalating risks. Even when Health Secretary Francisco Duque assures that all cases detected in the country are "mild" with no fatalities so far, and with most patients recovering after three days of treatment, TV and radio reporters and commentators insist on anchoring up the alarm level, implying health authorities are either much too complacent or are covering up the "real" extent of the threat.

Actually, as Duque has pointed out, Filipinos have far more to worry about health than a new strain of flu virus: One of them is dengue, which has been around for decades and has actually been killing individuals. The disease affects more people, regardless of economic or social standing, as the recent illness of Erin Aquino's sons demonstrated.

But dengue is old news, while A(H1N1) flu is still sexy and exciting. And so we are "treated" each evening to footage of panic-stricken parents, restless students in masks, mall workers and colleges supposedly besieged by the threat of a newer strain of the virus.

One morning report concerned a private school in Pasadena where a student had tested positive for A(H1N1) flu virus. The principal's neighborhood was caught on camera expressing concern about his students getting infected "since our school is just next door." Will someone please tell him that A(H1N1) flu is spread through droplets in the air expelled by persons infected by the virus when they cough or sneeze, and that unless one ventures out somewhere, at least not through public places, his whole one would be infected by sitting in close proximity with an infected person in enclosed quarters, such as in an airplane, you can't get infected by going in a nearby school or standing under the same sky.

---

SEE ARTICLE in the New York Times by Donald G. McNeil Jr. says that A(H1N1) flu has caused mostly "mild" illnesses so far and "scientists looking at its genetic structure says there is no obvious precursor" for the virus to mutate into something more lethal, that is to start killing many of its human hosts.

"It is already doing a more-perfect job of keeping itself alive by invading human cells and outlasting humans to enough it from one to another," says Dr. W. Ian Lipkin, director of the Center for Infection and Immunity at Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health, a really aggressive flu that quickly kills its host, such as H5N1 and H7N1 avian flu "gives itself a problems," says Lipkin.

He need to remember though, that the virus, or its "highly mutable" self, says McNeil, "Something could happen in the next few years, the time a new strain normally takes to circle the globe." The World Health Organization has already declared a "global pandemic" of A(H1N1) flu, but reports don't think the novel virus could cause the same level of death toll as the Spanish flu (a strain of avian influenza) that began as a mild strain but ended up killing 20-100 million people in a year's time. That, said another report, was a "once-a-millennium or once-every-10-millennia event."

---

ONE reason relatively few people have been dying from A(H1N1) flu, at least soon after the first early deaths in Mexico and the United States, has been the use of anti-viral drugs, particularly oral-inhalants, which, said Dr. Eric Tsang of the Provincial Epidemiology Center, can help delaying the effects of a viral attack, giving the body enough time to marshal its own defenses.

But one problem, points out McNeil in his article, is possible resistance to Tamiflu, a brand of oseltamivir which is widely used by health authorities to treat A(H1N1) flu. "If that happens," says McNeil, "the world's Tamiflu stockpile will be of no use to the sick and doctors may have to switch to Relenza, which is a powder used with an inhaler, which makes it more expensive and harder to take."

This could very well be good news for GSK, the drug multinational which manufactures and markets Relenza, which unfortunately is not marketed here. Even better news for all of us is that GSK is currently working on the development of an A(H1N1) vaccine, although it's still early to say when. Also, Glaxo's new GSK global CEO Andrew Witty (the company has already committed about 50 million doses of the vaccine to the WHO once the vaccine is tested and approved.

---

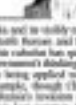
WITTY was in the country on a lightning visit as part of a swing through Asia, and part of his day-long visit was a courtesy call on President Macapagal-Arroyo.

He had many good news for everyone reeling from a string of bad health news. GSK, he said, is committed to "long-term" research and "has a vaccine against malaria. Malaria, I must point out, is a pretty common disease in the Third World (including the Philippines), so much so that people have resulted to take it for granted. Witty's report is part of a long-term access to [but GSK, said Roberto Tabuena, managing director of GSK Philippines, is currently in the "early research" stage of developing a vaccine against dengue, and will launch a vaccine against pneumonia "in perhaps two months."

Witty had many good news to share with Filipinos, particularly the steps taken by the multinational to lower the prices of its medicines, especially for 16 so-called "neglected diseases" that are prevalent in poor countries. This company-wide commitment, of course, doesn't yet part of [illegible] Witty's report is that GSK, said Roberto Tabuena, managing director of GSK Philippines, is currently in the "early research" stage of developing a vaccine against dengue, and will launch a vaccine against pneumonia "in perhaps two months."

Witty had many good news to share with Filipinos, particularly the steps taken by the multinational to lower the prices of its medicines, especially for 16 so-called "neglected diseases" that are prevalent in poor countries. This company-wide commitment, of course, doesn't yet part of [illegible] Witty's report is that GSK, said Roberto Tabuena, managing director of GSK Philippines, is currently in the "early research" stage of developing a vaccine against dengue, and will launch a vaccine against pneumonia "in perhaps two months."

# China's stability doctrine



**WORLD VIEW**

*Wen Jiao*

LONDON—FOR TWO DECADES, CHINESE DIplomacy has been guided by the concept of the country's "peaceful rise." Today however, China needs a new strategic doctrine, because the most remarkable aspect of Sri Lanka's recent victory over the Tamil Tigers is not its overwhelming nature, but the fact that China provided President Mahinda Rajapakse with both the military supplies and diplomatic cover he needed to prosecute the war.

Without that Chinese backing, Rajapakse's government would have been forced to negotiate with the Tigers from a position of strength. Instead, he was free to ignore world opinion and its offensive against the Tigers. He, not only has China become critical to every aspect of the global financial and economic system, it has now demonstrated its willingness to use its growing economic clout to enable its allies. Dr. Ni Lexiong's bankrupt battleship, China's "peaceful rise" was completed.

What will this change mean in practice in the world's hot spots like South Korea, Pakistan and Central Asia?

Before the global financial crisis hit, China benefited mightily from the long boom along its eastern and southern rim, with only Burma and North Korea remaining instability. China's own and south, however, is now threatened by the global slowdown.

Given economic insecurity within China following the financial crisis and global recession, China's government finds instability in neighboring territories more threatening than ever. Stabilizing its neighborhood is one reason why China has become the its party talks with North Korea, has become a big investor in Pakistan (while exploring ways to cooperate with President Barack Obama's special representative, Richard Holbrooke), signed on to a free trade agreement with Association of Southeast the release from detention of Burmese opposition leader Suu Kyi, Aung San Suu Kyi, and intervened to help end Sri Lanka's 25-year civil war.

The rationale behind China's emerging national security strategy is simple: Maintaining stability and prosperity around China's long borders, there can be no peace, prosperity and unity at home. China's intervention in Sri Lanka and its visibly increasing involvement with the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), a regional grouping that includes former Soviet countries, are clear harbingers of this new policy and Russia, Pakistan and Iran are also important partners.

Russia is keen to help China limit Western and thus undo the post-Cold War settlement, under which China's economy flourished and security increased.

So far, China's rulers have regarded emerging strategic competition with India, Japan, Russia and the United States as a spelling for influence in Central and South Asia. China's strategic imperatives in this competition are twofold: to ensure that no rival acquires a dangerous "privileged influence" in any of its border regions; and to prevent rivalries in these regions from undermining the stability that is essential for China's economic development.

In the 1990s, China sought to mask its "peaceful rise" behind a policy of "multi-diplomacy" designed to reassure its neighbors that its growing power was benign. China lavished trade, tourism and official soft loans and investments to help it soothe its neighbors. Today, China's government seeks to shape the diplomatic agenda in order to increase China's options while reducing those of its potential adversaries.

Instead of remaining diplomatically aloof, China is forging more relationships with its neighbors than any of its rivals. This informal web is being engineered not only to keep the trade lanes open, but also to ensure that China has the leverage to influence the actions of China's local partners so as to dampen tension anywhere it might flare up.

China's newfound assertiveness, rather than reassuring East should be seen as establishing the foundations for a new strategic doctrine that encompasses above the way basis of peaceful coexistence and stability in toxic respect for all states' rival interests. In recent years, such to approach has caused its American's foreign policy predicament of becoming overwhelmed by and over a careful balancing of national interests. With the Obama administration embracing realism as its diplomatic lodestar, China may have found a willing interlocutor. Project Syndicate

---

*Wen Jiao is chair of Longbird Advisors, a political, economic, and business consultancy.*

The INQUIRER is a member of the
PHILIPPINE PRESS INSTITUTE
The National Association of Philippine Newspapers

# TALK of the TOWN

Please send feedback to ...
Julie Jane V. Sarmiento Jr.

BACKSTAGE Janice Ronald and Rudil Dilaza, now known as Mayward Palabay, reveal people's comments with their comic renditions of popular songs

## How to upload video clips on YouTube

1 Go to: YouTube.com.

2 Click on Sign Up and provide some information required, such as username, date of birth and click on "I accept" button to agree to the terms of service and use.

3 You are asked to provide your e-mail account details. If you're using Gmail, then you can quickly provide your username and password to enter YouTube. But if you've not using Gmail, then follow some options.

4 YouTube will now ask you to confirm your new account via the e-mail address that you've provided.

5 Log in to your e-mail, and check the confirmation link for the new YouTube account you just registered in your inbox.

6 The link will bring you to another window, which confirms your new account. Click on "Click here to manage your account profile."

7 Click on the YouTube icon in your Google account profile. (YouTube is owned by Google.)

8 You are now registered with YouTube and can start viewing videos.

9 To upload a video, look for the "Upload" button on the upper right hand corner of the screen. Then choose between "Upload video file" or "Record from webcam." The first option allows you to upload any video file you have on your computer. The second lets you become a Pinoy YouTube idol. Just turn on your web camera and start recording. (Tip: While you can upload high-definition video on YouTube, this will take more time. You can upload only 10 videos at a time, with maximum size of 1 gigabyte or around 15 minutes in length). Also make sure you're not violating any copyright when you upload videos on YouTube.

10 Click on the "Upload video" button and choose a video from your computer.

11 During the uploading of the video, you can provide a quick description, "tags" (e.g. insects, fun). Also you can specify if you want to share the video with the rest of the world or just keep it private. You now have uploaded your first video clip on YouTube.

Erwin Oliva

# How to become the next Pinoy YouTube idol

By Erwin Oliva

DO YOU WANT TO BECOME THE NEXT PHILIPPINE IDOL? Well, to get there, you have to have the talent, the looks and the stomach to get through many auditions (including embarrassing ones). And perhaps let's add some luck because you will surely be competing with thousands of hopefuls. And chances are they might be better than you in two of the three categories I just mentioned.

If you're watching "American Idol," you can tell by now that you have to have the whole package to make it. A friend of mine once told me that "talent is no longer just the barometer of success today. Creativity is." What does he mean by that? We will get to that later.

### Singing sensation

For starters, the barrier to success today is a bit tricky. Let's take Chester Pemprengco, for example. Remember that she was the little girl who was defeated in a local singing competition. Thanks to YouTube, a popular online video sharing website, she's getting more recognition worldwide and is now labeled an international "singing sensation." In fact, she's on her way to doing her first movie in Hollywood.

Just to give you a brief history of Pemprengco's rise to stardom, it started in 2007 when she was asked to do some recording in Sweden. A video of her singing a song in the movie "Dreamgirls" became a hit once it hit an video-sharing website. This got her invited in Korea to sing.

Apparently her performance in the Korean show was posted on YouTube. Later, producers of the "Ellen DeGeneres Show," an American talk show, saw her YouTube video. From there, we can say that it was all history. All in all, it took Charisse two years to get where she is now. It happened to such a short time...and there's no stopping her.

### Journey

Arnel Pineda, another Filipino singer, also got his break in 2007. Again, thanks to YouTube, he's now the frontman of popular American rock band Journey. Pineda has been performing for more than 20 years.

Pineda's video showing him singing cover songs from Journey and other American bands landed on YouTube. He was only with his band, called Zsazsa, when Journey guitarist Neal Schon saw him.

To cut the story short, Schon later got to Pineda and asked him to audition for the band. And, well, as they say, history was made...once again.

### Dancing inmates

These two examples are perhaps exceptional. Not you might be wondering how could these relatively "unknown" entertainment a success. Let's follow Pacquiao's footsteps, or for us mere, aren't never-ethnic anyone to record in real voice. This keeps the mystique of Manny Pacquiao.

Filipino-American dynamic duo is an exception to the rule of YouTube Pinoy idols. Growing up in the United States, Gamboa who uses the moniker Happy Slip (as in half-slippers by locals back there) is a huge hit on YouTube because of his one-woman orchestra.

His characters are all inspired by her family. Her stories are about her life. Because of her Filipino ancestry, she was recently invited to the country by the Department of Tourism to become an ambassador to younger Filipinos-Americans. She toured popular spots in the country, capturing her trip on cam and sharing it with the rest of the world.

Again, coincidence, but it was in March 2007 when her video "Mixed Nuts" was nominated for the top 2006 YouTube Video Awards for comedy. She placed second. This has somehow catapulted her to stardom on the Internet.

Her current accolades on YouTube are being No. 5 in "Most Subscribed (All Time)," "No. 6 in "Most Subscribed (All Time) Partners," "No. 11 in "Most Subscribed (All Time) Partners."

She also has more than 300,000 total views on YouTube, with more than 20 million views dialled up to her video channel. Such staggering figures are only put on the finished.

### Skits

"While growing up, my mom used always quick to remind me to wear a bad slip with my dresses or skirts. She would say 'Be sure to wear your happy hips!' So I grew up thinking the term was always 'happy slip,'" said Gamboa (actually the classmates who asked me if I had a real slip as well," Gamboa in FAQ section YouTube channel reads.

Why did she choose to use Happyslip as her screen name? "But only as it a funny phrase from the past, but it is also a reference I'd like people to feel when they watch these videos. I hoping they will 'slip into happiness' while watching, and that it would help to brighten up their day," she adds on her FAQ.

### Birth

There is really no surefire formula for becoming a YouTube idol. Just think about tens of millions of people uploading videos on the online video-sharing website every day. What are the chances that you get picked from all other mundane content you now find on YouTube.

Here are some ideas that would perhaps explain why YouTube has become a hit.

Founded in February 2005 by Chad Hurley and Steve Chen, YouTube is relatively a young online service that was born under the Web 2.0 framework. Before YouTube's birth, it was quite a chore viewing home videos on the Internet.

### Replay value

It was this problem that Hurley and Chen solved. But they went beyond that idea, as they allowed people to make video clips posted on YouTube viral—meaning it is easier to distribute using faster, broadband Internet connections.

Viral also means people can embed, through content, giving videos "replay value." Users don't find on which site. This means users can always go back to viewing channels and being videos by Maymay Palabay. Here share it with friends (distribution) and even give props (feedback) to people who posted the videos.

YouTube has also proven to be a cheaper platform for video distribution and sharing, recently about the same video-content owners, as their content is getting shared and distributed on this online video-sharing website.

This has somehow prompted YouTube to go into partnership with famous content owners, including CBS, BBC, Universal Music Group, Sony Music Group, Warner Music Group, MGM and The Sundance Channel.

And I also forgot: Google bought YouTube in November 2006 after it realized the advertising potential of this growing online community.

### Tipping point

Here's another interesting observation. It seems that the tipping point for most of these YouTube idols was in 2007, barely two years after YouTube was launched. Based on my readings, 2006 was the year YouTube became an Internet phenomenon. But it was in 2007 when most of YouTube stars emerged. That might also be a coincidence.

As word caught on about YouTube, which has dramatically changed the way we consume on the Internet, people have started creating their own videos—thanks to cheaper mobile phone cameras, webcams and video software, and computers—and sharing them online.

Good videos get props—as demonstrated by the number of views and viewer's feedback they receive. Bad ones are forgotten.

Just to give you an idea how big YouTube is, here are some facts from its website. We're talking about hundreds of millions of videos a day on YouTube and up load hundreds of thousands of videos daily. In fact, every minute, 10 hours of video is uploaded to YouTube."

What are those people? YouTube's users are aged 18 to 55 years and are evenly divided between males and females, according to the website.

YouTube says that 51 percent of its users go to the website weekly or more often. And 52 percent of the 18- to 34-year-old users there videos all or with friends and colleagues. They fall under a generation of users who were born into the infant years of the Internet age.

### Community

YouTube is just the beginning of an evolving community on the Internet. We now have other video-like websites, where YouTube videos are also posted. The web is heading toward a more communally based and user generated platform for interaction.

Websites like YouTube will continue to create new celebrities without the help of traditional media. Just try typing "YouTube celebrities" on Wikipedia and you will find a host of them...one of them I just described in my article.

The new generation will get used to the idea that videos are shared online, and that they can catch their idols on YouTube anytime of the day or their own convenience. As always, they can be their own idol. All they need is time, guts and a bit of luck, and perhaps a lot of online friends.

(Erwin Oliva is a tech buff-cum-net.)

Across the NATION

# Bid to condone ₱42B in farmers' debts pushed

LEGAZPI CITY—ONE OF PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-Arroyo's economic advisers proposed that the government condone at least ₱42 billion in debts incurred by farmers under the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP).

Jury Salceda, a close economic adviser of Mrs Arroyo and fellow governor, said the debt condonation could be included as a provision to the Carper (CARP with reformed) bill that is now in the bicameral conference committee of Congress.

Congress had already made a similar move under the Electric and Power Industry Reform Act (Epira) which led to the condonation of at least ₱286 million in bad loans incurred by electric cooperatives from the National Electrification Administration (NEA), according to Salceda.

Salceda said his proposal was patterned after that which Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile pushed during deliberations on the Epira.

"I am actually using the 'Enrile' model in terms of the condonation of the agrarian reform liabilities, amounting to ₱42 billion, which ought to be assumed in the Carper provision," Salceda said in a press conference on Friday.

"Senator Ines, sa Enrile ko thank. Ines na ito (Senator Ines, the provision that fought with the Department of Finance on the condonation under section 17.4 of the Epira)," Salceda said, adding the same is pending for farmers.

The Land Bank of the Philippines has lent a total of ₱42 billion to farmers under various agrarian reform programs since 1972 but has so far collected only 16 percent in payments.

"The farmers are already poor and why do we have to go after them for payment instead of helping them cope with their escalating difficulties in life?" Salceda said.

Over the past 37 years only farmers have been in "dire straits" crying hard to pay their loans as if harassed by "termites," he added.

"But if we condone these, there will be no more marks on the back of land titles of CARP beneficiaries, so they can use their titles as new loan guarantees for emergencies and for improvements of their crops and development of their farms such as construction of irrigation facilities," he said.

Salceda told Enrile that President Macapagal-Arroyo has already approved of the condonation program and it simply needs to be pursued.

In response to this, Enrile called on Sen. Gregorio Honasan, a Bicolano senator and head of the Senate panel acting on the conference committee on Carper, to study Salceda's proposal.

Salceda said Albay since has ₱5,000 bacteria placed under DARP "so these debts can be used by farmers since they are free from Land Bank debts."

He said the condonation policy of the government affects farmers to free into the rural property market and farmers to have complete ownership of their lands to use those for fresh loans that they might need for irrigation and other facilities in their farms. Joy M. Hasol, Inquirer Southern Luzon

## Laoag lawyer handling land cases slain near his home

By Cristina Arcadon
Inquirer Northern Luzon

LAOAG CITY—YOUNG LAWYER Eddie Gregorio was in his second element when he had dinner with his lawyer-partners early Friday night.

He left at around 9 p.m. supposedly to meet a client but he ended up dead minutes later after being gunned down by two men outside his apartment.

Police said Gregorio, 28, suffered two bullet wounds in the neck and right arm from a .45 cal. pistol.

Supt. Benjamin Lund, Ilocos Norte police director, said police had identified one of the two suspects, but declined to release his name.

Gregorio was walking on M.H. Del Pilar Street and was on his way home when two men wearing hooded jackets drawn by and shot him.

The area where he was slain is a residential district where a hotel, a diner and a fast food chain stand.

Gregorio, who had been practicing law for nearly three years, was taken to the Dr. Jose Rizal Memorial Hospital where he later died.

Lawyer Edna Labayog, the victim's law partner, said Gregorio never told them that his life was under any threat.

"We handled mostly land dispute cases. But there was no occasion where he revealed that he was in any trouble that would merit any concern," Labayog said.

He said Gregorio was cheerful when they had dinner with other lawyers on Friday night. He left the group after receiving a message from his mobile phone that he had to meet a client.

INDEPENDENCE DAY
A soldier-armored vehicle joins the observance of Independence Day in Ifugao City. Security was kept tight as a result of threats from New guerrillas.

## Fear of risks keeping 2,500 judge seats vacant—Puno

LEGAZPI CITY—AT LEAST 2,500 positions for judges are vacant but no one is applying because of fear of getting killed in the course of duty, according to Chief Justice Reynato Puno.

In a press conference Friday here, Puno said the 2,500 vacancies represent 39 percent of the required number of judges that the Supreme Court is trying to address.

Puno said the SC was trying to fill the gap by deploying its Salaried Justice or Whereabouts (SJOs), or mobile courts, which was in Albay over the weekend.

"We have the venerables, the lates of the rebels were amid typhoons to serve the poor," Puno said.

"The SJOs has already released some 1,400 inmates since its launch last year as their cases was resolved either through amicable settlements or they have been proven innocent during the hearings conducted," he said.

Puno expressed fear of difficulty in attaining the required number of judges across the country as judges rank second to journalists in most endangered professions in the country.

"The lack of budget, which does not even account for one percent of the national budget for 180 years, already makes it difficult for us to meet this requirement," he said.

However, working on weekends, the SC has widened its coverage through mobile courts that roam across the country to bring justice closer to the people, especially the poor, Puno said. Roy M. Hasol, Inquirer Southern Luzon

## Baguio team helps youth get out of depression

BAGUIO CITY—A TEAM OF professional psychologists and psychiatrists has been training teenagers in Baguio schools on peer counseling to help save children from bouts of depression and suicides.

Three teenagers are members of mental health clubs that have been tapped to help children who are prone to depression as well as those engaged in recent street beauty here, according to Irene Ybanez, executive manager of the Philippine Mental Health Association chapter in Baguio.

Through these clubs...the Lakas kipas ng Kabataan (LAKK) the high school students and the Progressive Youth Association of Mental Health (PYAMH) for college students—they hoped that counseling could also save school children from engaging in violent activities, she said.

"Most of the children do not know that they are in a state of depression, sadness, cutting classes, disobeying rules and regulations and irritability are symptoms of depression," she said.

She said family problems also trigger stress among children, making them vulnerable to depression.

According to Ybanez, the PMHA center have received every month 40 cases, mostly teenagers suffering from depression.

She also said they are targeting an outreach program for peer counseling to the farming towns in Benguet where there have been reports and cases of suicides among teenagers.

Government and health officials have expressed alarm over the increase in the number of suicides using pesticides in Benguet. Dadon Cabasi, Inquirer Northern Luzon

# *Search for good glue key to keeping heritage structures alive*

By Vincent Cabreza
Inquirer Northern Luzon

VIGAN CITY—CHURCH BELLS during lunch in the 17th century need to be restored quickly but conservationists are unable to approximate the binding agent used to keep these stone-stacked pillars standing as tall as when they were built.

On Thursday, however, the United Architects of the Philippines (UAP) asked officials of cement giant Holcim Philippines if it could study the properties of a common wall sealing agent sold in hardware stores, after learning that it might be the key to restoring and preserving churches like the Diocesan Cathedral in Ilocos Norte.

Ray Ebersantos, president of the UAP chapter in Vigan, said Holcim Phillight, a masonry cement product, appeared to have the same qualities of a Spanish-era concoction of limestones, bone and human hair and other organic matter (glutter) used to bind the bricks that made up most churches then.

### Like lime

He said the product has the same "pozolanic" qualities as lime, which means it triggers the same kind of chemical reactions that allow planned foundations like church walls to "bind strongly."

Lime may still be available, but the 17th and 18th century process has become too expensive, he said.

New tests will require the UAP to document every step of the restoration of the Diocesan Church, including raw data about the way the cheerful bell handling behaves, he said.

"If we finally prove scientifically that Wallright can replace lime mortars then no one can't using this in the restoration of more old churches in the country," Ebersantos said during the closing time of a Holcim agreement North Luzon cacious here.

Eduardo Sabagan, Holcim executive vice president who led the ceremony, approved the study and signed a memorandum of agreement with the UAP to start the tests in Dingras.

### Heritage sites

Ebersantos said the study may also be transmitted to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) because cities like the Vigan churches have been enshrined as World Heritage Sites.

Pilten added, the UAP official acknowledged that Unesco must be kept apprised by the alternatives conservationists are adopting.

"It cannot just apply every where, you see. The churches of Isabela use a different mixture for mortar compared to the churches of Ipmeteers like the Ilocos region which are near the coast," Ebersantos said.

"We have to understand if it would be suited to all types of [churches]," he said.

The UAP decided to study ancestral remedies to conserve...ture because of the controversy that halted restoration work at the Dingras Cathedral in February Florentino said.

He was referring to the outrage triggered by the local government moves to demolish the relic. This church is the third to be built in Dingras. The first, built in 1625, was destroyed by an earthquake, while the second (built in 1830) was gutted by fire.

THEM VINTAGE Houses along the heritage row of Vigan City in Ilocos Sur may depend soon on a common cement bonding product for their preservation.

INQUIRER Mindanao

# Nonviolent struggle ends in murder

'No murder is ever justifiable. But to kill a man who is a staunch advocate of peaceful means to protect and push for the rights of peasants, one who has never lifted a finger to hurt anyone, makes his murder ruthless, senseless and brutal...'

By Ryan D. Rosauro

AFTER TEARING DOWN A barbed wire fence, a group of 55 farmers broke into the 50-hectare piece of property in Sumilao town in Bukidnon that food giant San Miguel Corp. (SMC) handed over to them on March 29 last year.

Overwhelmed by emotions, Daly leader, Renato "Ka Bong" Peñas, jumped three times and scooped a fistful of soil. "Mao nang sa'm nga unang gihan-gan. Ato na gyud! (This is the land that we have been struggling for. It is finally ours!)," he cried out.

Ka Ka'Bong and the other farmers of Barangay San Vicente, their entry into the estate was a victory not ordinary for thousands of other farmers like them struggling to own land.

Although they were awarded 144 hectares of prime farmland under the government's Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP), the farmers had waited over 12 years for that to happen.

Their retired peasant-leader had been ruthlessly killed back by persons hell-bent on the rough legal to frustrate their and threaten to their lives.

### Meaningless

Agrarian reform advocates described Ka Bong as a dedicated believer of farmers' rights and lauded him for taking the road of active nonviolence. "Even in the most desperate moments of (their) struggle to reclaim their land."

The party-list group Akbayan called him "the gentle giant of agrarian justice."

"His cause did he consider violence. Even when he stood face-to-face with the armed goons of their city landlord, he never considered lifting a finger in retaliation and used violence with violence," read a statement from the Bukidnon Kilusang Magbubukid, a nongovernment group assisting the Sumilao farmers.

Ka Bong's killing on June 5 was, therefore, a tragic end. He was 52.

### Fatal

Ka Bong was gunned down while he was on his way home at midnight of June 5.

The day after, police arrested Adgilo Ta-ssumday, the alleged leader of a group of men behind the killing.

Police said Tumandas allegedly ran to a piece of land which land bore, surrender to the Sumilao farmers, and that Ka Bong ruled to intervene.

Ka Bong's family, however, wants a deeper investigation into the killing, citing some inconsistencies in the police report like the location of the bullet wounds suffered by the victim and what they believe actually happened.

### Story of struggle

"No murder is ever justifiable. But to kill a man who is a staunch advocate of peaceful means to protect and push for the rights of peasants, one who has never lifted a finger to hurt anyone, makes his murder ruthless, senseless and brutal," the Kilusang Magbubukid said.

In September 2005, the farmers were awarded the estate, but this was revoked in March 1997, after Malacañang approved the land's conversion from agricultural to agro-industrial use, thus exempting it from CARP coverage. The farmers had since fought to reverse that decision.

In October 1997, Ka Bong was among 15 farmers who were shot during clashes with security guards of the estate. The farmers were protesting the conversion of the land.

In December 1997, Ka Bong was among 15 farmers who were shot in Sumilao in the 20 days in Quezon City and Cagayan de Oro City to denounce the conversion of the land. The Supreme Court, however, ruled with finality in 1999 to uphold the land-use conversion order.

Seeing that the estate's owners had not complied with the supposed land use conversion for five years after the Supreme Court decision, the farmers sought to put the land under CARP coverage again in 2004 in keeping with its employment order.

The renewed campaign drove them to launch a 60-day "Walk for Land, Walk for Justice" in October 2007. It meant walking some 1,700 kilometers from Sumilao to Manila, overcoming hunger, fatigue and the elements, to reclaim the land, this time already acquired by SMC.

### Search for change

The rough the march, the farmers gained the Malacañan steps in March last year, as well as found SMC to provide them the remaining 94 hectares. Their campaign also inspired fellow farmers and other people to seek change.

In July last year, the farmers in Manila awarded the Sumilao farmers and Jaime Jesus Bayao of the United Filipinos the Dangal Award "in recognition of their faith and courage to seek justice through entire accumulated way, and for living their light, dream on the entire nation."

The completion of the Sumilao case and the legal loopholes it exposed have made it among the watershed experiences in shaping up the proposal on CARP Extension with Reform (Carper). In fact, the 1,500-ton march already carried the same call.

Because of this, Ka Bong himself never converted to help other farmers fight for their rights.

Last year, he served as organizer-trainer of the 444-km walk by farmers from Bataan, Iloilo, Cotabato City to Malacañang to demand completion of their land rights.

### Another fight

In February, Ka Bong again led farmers from Sumilao, Davao and Agusan in a journey from Cagayan de Oro to Manila to press for Carper. The group was joined by farmers from Bataan and Calatagan, Batangas, and reached the national capitol in March 2.

Since then, they have campaigned in the streets of Manila and in the halls of Congress, asking to pressure the first consideration in the passage of Carper by the Senate on June 4 and by the House of Representatives two days later.

In a brief speech during the May 20 rendering of the documentary film "Lupang Hinirang" at the Senate, Ka Bong lamented that struggling farmers like him had to resort to such desperate measures in Manila about the letter and spirit of the land reform law so they could be assured of its socio-economic implementation.

At the time of his death, Ka Bong was chairman of the provincial farmers' federation in Bukidnon, vice chair of the Pambansang Kilusan ng mga Samahang Magsasaka (Pambansa) and coordinator of the Visayas in Manila.

"A tribute to you, Ka Bong, for your gallant fight for the peasantry. May the seed that you sowed grow and bear fruit, and we will continue the fight you had begun for a world we all cherish," the Pambansang Kalipunan ng mga Samahan sa Kanayunan (PKSK) and the Kilusan para sa Pagbabagong Pangkabuhayan at Kalikasan ng Pambansang Demokratikong Lipunan (KPML) said in a statement.

The Bukid Bukidnon said: "Ka Bong's brutal death will inspire us to emulate his courage and spirit of self-sacrifice."

FLASHBACK: Land reform advocates call for justice in the killing of Sumilao farmers leader Ka Bong Peñas during a press conference in Quezon City.

THE REMAINS of Renato Peñas, leader of the Sumilao farmers, is carried in a hearse followed by farmers and supporters as a torch parade in his honor along Quezon Avenue on the way to Iloilo Straits Parish Church in Barangay Quezon City. Peñas was ambushed and killed in Sumilao, Bukidnon on June 5.

# BE FLU-LESS, NOT CLUELESS!

## Tomorrow, June 15, the De La Salle University campus reopens.

The University assures all its stakeholders, especially parents and students, that it is exerting all efforts to contain the spread of the Influenza A (H1N1) virus from the cases already confirmed.

- DLSU has prepared extensively for this eventuality, saturating all communication channels with information on preventing the spread of the virus before classes began in May.
- The University is strictly following all protocols required by the Department of Health and the World Health Organization, communicating with all possible contacts of the confirmed cases as part of a comprehensive approach to the containment of the virus.
- DLSU has a continuing campus-wide sanitation process to keep the campus a safe and conducive place for learning.
- The Department of Health has noted that the positive cases in the University were all mild, and that they have either recovered or on their way to full recovery. Be that as it may, we continue our extensive information campaign on the various ways to prevent and manage the spread of the virus.

Thank you for your continued confidence in De La Salle University.

Be flu-less, not clueless!
*Information is your best protection.*

http://fluless.multiply.com

De La Salle University

This campaign is supported by

NEWS

# Swine flu cases in RP climb to 111

By Dona Pazolygan

NINETEEN NEW CONFIRMED CASES OF THE A(H1N1) influenza virus, including 11 students of an elementary school in Asan, Nueva Ecija province, were reported yesterday by the Department of Health (DOH), bringing the total in the country to 111.

Twelve students of the Sikiw Elementary School (including one man previously identified), with a school population of 198, were confirmed to have been infected, although none have traveled abroad. Other students and their household contacts with influenza-like symptoms are still under observation.

The DOH said the 19 new cases—11 males and 8 females—were all mild to recover. They range from 6 to 49 years old, and all but one are Filipinos.

Six more fully recovered patients have been sent home yesterday, bringing the total count of recovered A(H1N1) cases to 38.

The DOH, meanwhile, prepared to implement its plan to conserve its resources to protect vulnerable and high-risk groups, rather than trying to stop the spread of the virus.

Health Secretary Francisco Duque III said they will soon shift to a policy of mitigation, from the current policy of containment, since the World Health Organization (WHO) already declared a pandemic alert.

"A policy of mitigation means the DOH will save forces on preparing households and health facilities respond to the challenge posed by A(H1N1) in anticipation of more confirmed cases," he added.

"We have to make sure our health system is equipped to treat and manage particularly severe cases that may require more intensive care in our hospitals and that mild cases are appropriately treated at home," he stressed.

Duque reiterated that based on the WHO's global observation, the A(H1N1) virus "causes very mild symptoms and takes a self-limiting course in the overwhelming majority of patients, mainly those who have no pre-existing conditions."

He said the DOH has to focus more on patients with preexisting diseases like diabetes, heart and renal disease, the pregnant, the very young and the elderly, and those with infections like HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis.

He said such high-risk patients should immediately see a doctor as soon as they develop flu-like symptoms.

Through mitigation, Duque said they want to slow down the spread of the virus to the community, minimize transmission to the most vulnerable groups, improve hospital preparedness to care for severe cases and to minimize the disruption of social activities and other negative consequences.

## Internet for Public High Schools

Not just another school opening as PLDT and SMART answer DepEd's call for connectivity

**Something exciting is in store for public high school students this school year. Education Secretary Jesli A. Lapus recently signed DepEd Order 50 which launched the department's Internet connectivity project, requiring all public high schools to get an Internet subscription within school year 2009-2010.**

SMART, DepEd and the Philippine Business for Social Progress agree on the implementation of the Smart Schools Program from left: Ed Salazar, PBSP Executive Director; Napoleon L. Nazareno, SMART President and CEO; Jesli A. Lapus, DepEd Secretary and Carmen K. Osmeña, SMART Public Affairs Group Head

The Philippine Long Distance Telephone (PLDT) Company and Smart Communications, Inc. (SMART) have been quick to respond. Both have lowered their regular Internet subscription plans to meet the budget allocated by the Department of Education (DepEd) per school.

At the same time, the PLDT Group is gearing up to provide the broadband connectivity requirements of public high schools nationwide with its wide range of communication solutions that include wired, wireless and satellite services through subsidiary Mabuhay Satellite Corporation.

"PLDT and SMART fully support government's vision of a public school education empowered by the Internet," says Napoleon L. Nazareno, PLDT and SMART President and CEO. "Broadbanding public schools is a big part of our 'Internet for All' advocacy, which is manifested in the Smart Schools Program."

Public high school students test the Internet access provided under the Smart Schools Program at the SMART Teachers' Learning Resource Center.

Launched in 2004, the Smart Schools Program (SSP) is SMART's flagship community service initiative that promotes ICT in basic education through partnerships with public schools, its officials and parents-teachers-community associations (PTCAs).

To date, some 250 public schools nationwide are enjoying Internet connectivity through the PLDT group's wide range of communications solutions, access to online content and teacher training. An additional 50 public high schools under the Commission on Information and Communications Technology's iSchools Project also enjoy the same benefits through SSP.

Backed by the nation's leading telcos in the fixed and wireless business, DepEd is assured of the needed support to have all public high schools in the country gain access to the global resource of information and educational opportunities afforded by the World Wide Web.

PLDT SMART

## UN urged to hike Security Council membership

By Cynthia D. Balana

PHILIPPINE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE to the United Nations in New York Lauro Davide Jr. has introduced a draft resolution in the UN seeking to amend the organization's charter and expand the membership of the Security Council from the present 15 member-states to 31.

In his intervention during the 21st informal meeting of the General Assembly on the intergovernmental negotiations on Security Council Reform on June 11, Davide said the time had come to move the process forward in the light of the various discussions on Council reforms which started as early as after the 1965 increase in its membership.

He urged the UN to take more concrete steps on the issue of reforms in what is considered to be the most powerful organ of the world body.

"The only way forward is not to go back again and repeat, for the nth time, all such proposals which in the past would not do us any good," Davide said.

Davide, former Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, read the text of a draft resolution which was different from previous proposals seeking to increase the membership of the Council.

In March 2005, former United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan proposed the expansion of the Security Council to 24 members in his plan referred to as "In Larger Freedom."

A month later, another proposal was made by a group of countries called "Uniting for Consensus" which called for an increase in the number of elected members to 20.

Davide said the amendments he proposed would increase the number of permanent members from the present 5 to 11 and the elected members from 10 to 18.

He proposed that the new permanent members should be composed of two each for Africa, Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean and one each for Eastern Europe and Western Europe and other states.

## *Monument to RP to rise in Israel*

THE "OPEN DOORS" MONUMENT, the first Philippine shrine to rise in Israel, will be inaugurated on June 21 to commemorate the "courage, hospitality and the determination of the Philippine government through President Manuel L. Quezon to give humanitarian support for the European Jews seeking refuge from the Holocaust in the 1930s."

According to the Israeli embassy in Manila, the shrine marked another milestone for the cordial ties between the two countries.

Thailand Secretary Joseph Durano will fly to Israel to be the guest of honor at the inauguration ceremony at the Rishon Lezion Holocaust Memorial Park.

Through President Quezon's "open door" policy in 1939, thousands of Jews escaped the Nazi horror and found refuge in the Philippines.

The embassy said the warm hospitality of the Filipino people undoubtedly shed light to one of the darkest and most difficult period in Jewish history.

Memories of such episodes were documented by Frank Epstein, a Holocaust survivor himself, in his book "Europe to Manila."

In 2000, the book literally opened the doors for the creation of the "Open Doors" monument through the initiative of former Ambassador to Israel Ernesto Modesta, who died in Manila in February 2007. Cynthia D. Balana

Aplus METRO
Editor Abelardo S. Llanday

JOB FAIR TRASH
A scavenger sifts through a small mountain of garbage left by the big crowd that came to the job fair in Lucena, Manila, on Friday. In front of him is a V-150 armored truck from the Marines, part of the attraction in the AFP's own military display in Lucena.

# Groups plan people's initiative vs oil depot

By Tina G. Santos

CONCERNED GROUPS ARE SET TO LAUNCH this week a people's initiative to repeal Ordinance 8187, which allows the continued operation of the Big 3 oil companies' depots and other industrial plants in Manila.

According to Councilor Ma. Lourdes "Bambi" Isip-Garcia, an advocate of the industrial plants' relocation, the move, in coordination with the University of the Philippines College of Law, will be led by the group called "Ma-eenmayan Kontra Abuso."

Garcia cited the Local Government Code of 1991 and Republic Act No. 6735 (Initiative and Referendum Act) which provided details on the procedure that must be followed in cases where registered voters may directly propose, enact, amend or repeal an existing ordinance.

"In order to repeal Ordinance 8187 (formerly draft ordinance 7377) by way of local initiative, a petition bearing 1,000 signatures of proponents who are registered voters will be filed at the City Council, "Garcia told the Inquirer.

Then the city council will be given 30 days to take favorable action, after which petitioners will be given 90 days to collect the required number of signatures, she added.

"A plebiscite will follow should the Commission on Elections (Comelec) determines that there is sufficiency in the required number of signatories," Garcia added.

The councilor said she is confident that they would be able to achieve the required number of signatories.

Manila has a total of 1,020,544 registered voters.

Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim earlier announced that he would still push for the relocation of the oil depots—even after he signed the measure into law—on the dismay of church officials concerned over the safety of the residents.

The oil depots, maintained by Chevron Philippines Inc. (formerly Caltex Philippines Inc.); Petron Corporation; and Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp., "cannot go on staying there (Pandacan) indefinitely," Lim said last week.

Lim was agreeing to sentiments aired by Manila Archbishop Emeritus Cardinal Sin to members of the diplomatic chambers of commerce in the city that the oil depot can remain forever and the companies responsible for its upkeep have to undertake measures to gradually relocate.

But Garcia said "I'm at a loss as how he's (Lim) going to do that. He signed the ordinance, now he's talking about relocation?"

# Manila Police reshuffles key officials

By Tina G. Santos

THE MANILA POLICE DISTRICT (MPD) yesterday effected a reshuffle among its officials following the official designation of Chief Supt. Rodolfo Magtibay as its district director.

MPD Station 1 (Ermita, Intramuros) commander Supt. Ernesto Tenderos was transferred to Station 3 (Sta. Cruz). He was replaced by Supt. Rodolfo Mariano.

Supt. Reynaldo Espinosa was assigned from MPD Station 3 (Sta. Cruz) to Station 5 (Binondo), replacing Supt. Rogelio Morales, who took over Station 2 (Quiapo, Santa Cruz).

Another station commander, Supt. Ferdinand Quiroz of MPD Station 9 (Malate), was transferred to the MPD Mobile Group replacing Supt. Rodely Tiu, who was assigned to the district's traffic bureau.

Quiroz was replaced by Supt. Dax Tinio.

Another station commander, Supt. Ariel Diaz of Station 10 (Pandacan) and Supt. Fronson de Bernal of Station 4 (Santa Cruz) exchanged assignments.

Magtibay said the reorganization was aimed at improving the anticriminality campaign of police district.

sun broadband wireless
PREPAID WIRELESS BROADBAND
GET THE PREPAID KIT FOR ONLY ₱1,895 WITH 5 HOURS FREE!
STAY CONNECTED FOR AS LOW AS ₱6.25/30mins.
SPEEDS OF UP TO 2Mbps
Load via: Xpress

| | Regular load | SBW 100 | SBW 300 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Price | ₱10 | ₱100 | ₱300 |
| No. of hours | 30 mins | 6 hours | 24 hours |
| Valid for | 2 hours | 3 days | 10 days |
| Effective Rate per 30 minutes | ₱10.00 | ₱8.33 | ₱6.25 |

SBW 100 & SBW 300 Special loads now available in cards!
sun broadband wireless

# Quiapo's side streets still lure Pinoys in quest of luck, fortune

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

FILIPINOS MAY BE FAMOUS —or infamous... for leaving practically everything to chance or to fate. But that does not mean they are not trying everything they can to convince the cosmic forces of the universe and gods of all persuasions to act in their favor.

This is why even if many Filipinos are hard up financially, they would still spend part of their hard-earned money on lucky charms, amulets and trinkets that they wholeheartedly believe have the power to bring them fortune.

And chances are a good part of that money will find its way into the cramped side streets that lead into the Baroque-style Minor Basilica of the Black Nazarene in downtown Manila—more popularly known as the Quiapo church—where vendors catering side by side to their traditional clients have been selling talismans to attract lady luck for decades.

Francisca Cuivi-ed, a member of the Kinilawa-ay tribe from Mindoro Province in southern Philippines, peddles round "ulong stone" (sea toy) wood chips from the native rehabilitation center she set up to discover that you are supposed to put in your pocket, wallet or purse "para magsuot ang pasok ng pera" (so money will easily come in).

## Not a bad deal

For just P30 each, certainly not a bad deal, or so some Filipinos firmly believe.

The 30-year-old Tabuyod, who inherited her spot on the busy street from her mother, says that the "Kamay na kapit" (grasping hand)—a twig with what looks like a hand clasping a branch—is also quite popular among buyers.

The more devoted that "Kapit" and the tighter the grip, the more powerful it is supposed to be. And you are supposed to display the P30 bill in coins or piles of centavos to entrench its "power" and attract money or customers through the door.

The more expensive and rare P50 "Sabihin ng Sandosenas" (Amdosen Rosary), which can be fashioned into pendants, is also supposed to do the same trick. Some prefer this to the "Kamay na Kapit" since they can bring it with them every day and it has the added power of repelling evil spirits.

Can't decide which one to buy? There you can always go for a combination pack costing P50 each that contains a small coin-sized ship and a "kamay na kapit." Bring Abellan, a babysitter or native princess, says she regularly goes to Quiapo to buy her charms like amulets or chips and Jesmag na kapit because she needs them for "religious" rituals in her native Antipas.

## Extra powerful

Abellon says she buys even more on the days before Good Friday, one of the holiest days in the Roman Catholic calendar. But it is not to the death of Jesus Christ, saying that supernatural forces are extra powerful during the season of Lent.

She says that after she buys the charms from Quiapo, she will put them inside a jar filled with oil. She will then join other babaylans and band off on Holy Tuesday for a nice, quiet place in the mountains—most probably in nearby Montalban in Rodriguez, Rizal—where they say a Mission Catholic prayer (in serbasi Latin no less) and then bury the jar with the charms.

## Magic good for a year

They will unearth the jar three days later or on Good Friday, where predominantly Catholic Philippines almost comes to a standstill, when traditional prayers are supposed to be at their height—this letting the charms with the strength to repel evil and attract good fortune.

"That magic will be good for the rest of the year," said Abellon, adding that she will get a lot of clients looking for the charms because it is believed that because there will always be some body looking for all the help they can get in their business and health, even their love life.

Other vendors, meanwhile, make do with just bringing their charms, amulets and trinkets to Quiapo church to have them "blessed."

Ate Glo, who has been managing her small footwear seller booth in another street near Quiapo church since 1965, also considers basic Catholic prayers like Our Father and Hail Mary to help her give a more accurate reading of her never-ever.

And like the vendors of amulets, charms and trinkets, Ate Glo does not expect her line of clientele to be cut short anytime soon despite the global meltdown that has forced people to cut spending.

"Marami akong nakil (I have a lot of loyal clients)," says makeup-wearing and cigarette-smoking Ate Glo, who sends cards for between P50 and P100 a session depending on her complexity of their questions and the kind of cards they want read.

Playing cards are decoys from tarot cards, says Ate Glo in between long drags on her cigarette, signaling that they are also more accurate and more difficult to read hence the premium price.

## Basic questions

Firstly Ate Glo says most of the people who come to her ask her if the person they are seeing or married to would bring them luck, or if they would stay happy with them. Others, meanwhile, ask about how their mom or dad will die and if they will really get the chance to leave for abroad.

"Minsan talaga, walang career (Sometimes, people really have no luck)," says Ate Glo, but says she advises them to earnestly pray to God to help change their fortunes. "Sinasabi ko sa kanila na mag-dasal ako sa mga ito ng marami (I tell them to pray the rosary every day)."

Quiapo is an unusual melding of traditional folklore and Christian faith, best illustrated by the brisk trade in fortune telling and amulets selling beside one of the most celebrated churches in the Philippines, where thousands flock to every day to see the 400-year-old 400-year image of the Black Nazarene, a statue said to be the great concern of things not to Christ or God but to other forces," explained Monsignor Pepe Quiroz, spokesperson and media director of the influential Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines. "Even evil spirits has some role to play."

But Quiroz says the clergy admit that such a belief system is not necessarily unexpected given that centuries before the Spaniards came to the Philippines with their Roman Catholic faith in the 1500s, Filipinos already had a sophisticated religious system, one that revolved around the worship of nature's treasures such as trees, rivers and mountains.

## Big challenge

"The challenge then for us is to urge all Christians to vote the care of people so that they will know that the power over their life comes just from God," Quiroz said.

But Ate Glo, who says many clients come back to her to say that her prediction came true, says she sleeps well at night knowing her profession of Catholic faith with her fortune telling.

"Binabasa ko lang yung nasa mga baraha. Ano naman ako? (I just read the cards. What's wrong with that?)," she says.

While Ate Glo says she has days of entertaining people even if is used all the luck they can get.

QUIJANO

# Star maker Quijano found dead in rest house

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

TELENT MANAGER DOUGLAS Quijano died yesterday (Wednesday) at his newly built rest house in Lucban, Quezon province—apparently from a stroke, according to entertainment writer and fellow manager Cris Evangelista.

Sen. Senator Sonja Francis Pascua, Lucban police chief, said Quijano died of cardiac arrest.

He said the body of Quijano was found on the floor of his bedroom at the Countryside Subdivision in Barangay Ayon at around 11 a.m.

Pascua said Quijano's maid and driver called the police after their employer failed to go out of his room.

Quijano's driver said his employer was complaining of not feeling well and having chills the night before, but refused to be brought to the hospital.

Cardiac arrest was the cause of Quijano's death, Pascua said.

## Biggest stars

Quijano, who would have turned 65 on July 24, is credited for discovering and developing some of the local entertainment industry's biggest stars: Richard Gomez, Jerry Manigan, Aga and Aurora Wilson, Isidro and Gelli de Belen, among others.

"He was also a gentle mind behind the wings of many high-flying personalities," said filmmaker Elwood Perez who worked with Quijano in the independent production companies Star Pilipinas and Juan de la Cruz) they put up in the early 1990s.

Perez said Quijano were many hats throughout his five-decade career in show business. His work in entertainment columnist, manager and producer—landed him in many around him of the most influential movie industry people, who always referred to him as "the fable and consensus guru himself."

Filmmaker Jose Javier Reyes said that colleague Don Insiko once described Quijano this way: "In a world full of sharks, he was a dolphin."

Richard Gomez, who was in San Francisco, California, at the time of Quijano's passing, said the lessons in a phone interview: "I feel sad. He's like a second father to me and my wife Lucy (Torres). Why did it have to happen now, when I'm abroad? I feel so helpless." He says he plans to visit Ate's ICU clip.

"I'll miss talking to him," Gomez said. "My wife and I talk to him almost every day to chat, I talked to him the night before he died. ... We talked the minute I arrived in the US. He told me to swing my way to San Francisco." With a report by Delfin T. Mallari Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon

A STREET stall sells various charms and amulets of various kinds, sizes and colors. PHOTOS BY NIÑO JESUS ORBETA

FRANCISCA Cuivi-ed, who inherited her stall from her mother, sells mostly native charms and amulets.

METRO
Citizen's Call
One City of Affections and Dissections is made up of stories.
Your stories. Tell us all about it.
• Did a signage make your day?
• Garbage dumped on your street consider your day?
• Sorest signage forever on the street where you live?
• Are you up in arms against the construction of an unwanted tenant?
• Send in a 2020-second homepage project with a big problem (square or your community)
• Too much or politics?
• Fed up with cursing and beating neighbors?
• Is there an everyday role model in your neighborhood?
• Delightful/beautiful little or your way to work?
0918-8985566
INQUIRER

# Rob suspect shot dead after escape try

By Julie M. Aurelio

A ROBBERY SUSPECT DIED this way in inquest proceedings was shot dead by cops Friday night after the suspect seized his police escort's firearm and tried to escape from the Quezon City Hall complex.

Cesar Investigator PO2 Modesto Joachon said the suspect, Danilo Custodio, 33, died on the spot from three gunshot wounds to the body.

Custodio was arrested on Tuesday along with three other suspects after allegedly robbing the passengers of an FX taxi in front of the City Hall complex.

The suspects were robbed aboard a taxi en route to Cubao, the third bus they boarded along East Avenue in an attempt to elude pursuing lawmen.

Police said Custodio was found using a false name and was to be subjected to inquest proceedings on Friday.

"He was about to enter the Hall of Justice when the suspect suddenly grabbed the firearm of his police escort, SPO1 Edmund Ferrer. Custodio demanded that the keys to the handcuffs be given to him," Joachon said.

The escort tossed the keys to Custodio who freed himself from his handcuffs and ran around the City Hall complex in around 6:30 p.m., police said.

Operatives of the Quezon City Police District's Criminal Investigation and Detection Unit monitored the escape attempt over the radio and decided to make the rounds of the complex to look for the suspect.

"We asked for the suspect's description and at 6:15 p.m., we saw the suspect hiding behind an owner type jeepney," said SPO2 Greg Baes.

The suspect allegedly opened fire using the cal. 45 pistol he seized from his police escort, forcing the CIDU operatives to fire back at him.

"THERE ARE GENEROUS INDIVIDUALS who are helping our OFWs a-plenty. I still think we should be the government to be inexplicable and lack of political will."
GILBERT FERRELL, June 2009

# GLOBAL Pinoy

Editor Gerry Lirio

Email it to global_pinoy@inquirer.com.ph

Text us your feedback
(replies by inquirer.net subscribers only)
to 2320 (Globe) or 1813 (Smart)

This section is dedicated to Filipinos overseas toiling on land and at sea, in factories, in construction sites and in the homes of the world to ensure a better life for their families. These are their stories.

# The case of 137 bus drivers in Dubai

## Anatomy of a massive illegal recruitment, financial scam

By Susan "Tonyo" Ople
Contributor

IT ALL STARTED LAST November with an ordinary flyer.

"4,000+ jobs for bus drivers in Dubai," it said. The paper ad offered a monthly salary of 5,200+ dirhams or roughly P87,000. Thousands of these fliers were distributed by visual recruitment agency known as CDM International Services and Placement Agency as different bus terminals all over the country.

And in this case, bus drivers working for a well-known transport company were not who belong to other occupations but know how to drive, ex-OFWs who have worked in the Middle East before, and even a gym instructor left their jobs to grab what they thought was an opportunity of a lifetime.

CDM International, licensed with the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA), assured the drivers-applicants that after a month's training in Dubai, they would immediately report to work at the government's Road and Transport Authority (RTA) as bus drivers.

DRIVING US CRAZY: we said some of the 137 drivers of their case against an illegal recruitment agency that has put them in a quagmire of debts. Lawyer Ray Reddex (right) tries to cheer them up amid their equally desperate woes after a hearing of their complaint at the POEA office in Ortigas in Mandaluyong City.
KJAM LORA

### Love of the lending firms

CDM dangled such applicants' placement fee of P150,000, which is divided as an advance covering POEA rules that mandate a fee not beyond the equivalent of the worker's one month's salary.

About 137 workers were sent by CDM International to Dubai in three batches, from January to March this year. All were told in Manila through their referrals contracted a loan from the lending company for which they have been screened. Today, out of the 137 drivers, 60 continue to languish in Ajman where they were brought to live in a tenement building right beside a garbage dump. The lucky ones were able to leave Dubai before their tourist visas expired, either to work in Qatar with the help of the Department of Labor and Employment or to return home, their go-backer being as legitimate documentation as it gets.

The Blas F. Ople Policy Center has been helping these drivers in their legal battles since April of this year. It is not the only NGO helping distressed OFWs. But is the first case of illegal recruitment and human trafficking that we have ever encountered in which the victims are still with us, elaborate system of cheats and contraptions.

Nearly all of the applicants screened by CDM who couldn't afford the placement fee were referred to a lending company known as RJT Lending Corporation. A certain Elmer Lim facilitated the transaction together with a loan officer of RJT Lending. In two days, checking is usually more opened, cash cards were processed, and documents in both thick as well as were those 20 checks were signed by the drivers.

### Too many checks

According to the drivers, they were neither given time to bring home the documents to read nor furnished copies of whatever it was that they signed. Only one of the drivers, said he and his companion went to Lourdes's office in the evening and were still signing checks and documents until late the night. Tired, they logged off and asked to just return the following day.

The financing company obviously had some pull with certain banks. Its staff was able to withdraw from the cash cards of the drivers without their knowledge or prior notice.

When RJT Lending Financing Corporation distributed cash cards from a certain bank to the drivers, the attached receipts showed that several withdrawals had been made involving a balance below a hundred pesos. How could this happen, when their ATM numbers were supposed to be confidential and known only to the owners of those cards?

During a hearing of the Senate Labor Committee chaired by Sen. Jinggoy Estrada, a bus driver confessed that it was his first time to open a checking account. He simply followed all the instructions of the RJT Lending loan officer. The president checks that he signed were all numbered. He said. The loan officer asked him to sign several undated checks valid one week as co-makers.

Later on, the drivers' predecessors lawyer Reynaldo Robles, representing all the checks bound by each of his clients, said he was surprised to learn that each driver-co-maker of RJT Lending owes an aggregate amount of P1.9 million as a result of checks supposedly issued not just to Lourdes but to two insurance companies as well.

There checks made out to an insurance company by each of the drivers amounted to P360,000. On the day that they signed the checks, the drivers left indeed into completing all documentation and signatures, and their requests for copies of what they signed were denied.

### 'Reprocessed' job orders

As the checks started to bill due and demand letters were sent to their homes, the drivers, some of whom have since returned home, were shocked to the charges weight of their financial obligations through some of them never even hired as drivers in Dubai as promised by the agency.

CDM International Services and Placement Agency was listed by the POEA as an agency in good standing when the recruitment of drivers was going on. But CDM managed by Connie Paloma did not issue a job order for 4,000 bus drivers to be hired by Dubai's RTA, just as its fliers claimed. It could not have such job orders because the global financial crisis had hit Dubai hard and as a result, RTA had a freeze-hiring policy in place. From the very start, the entire recruitment process was fraught as usual.

Still, CDM and its Dubai-based agency, al Towayh Technical Services, has never shied with its hiring process, enlisting 31 other licensed agencies to "reprocess" the papers of the drivers using different principals or employers in Dubai. This is why the drivers were given employment contracts on the day of their departure. These contracts stated that the 137 workers would be working in Dubai as non-foodmen, waiters, waitress, utility helpers, and other positions but not as RTA bus drivers.

All 31 licensed agencies are now under preventive suspension by the POEA.

Based on documents shared by the drivers with the Ople Center, only two workers were actually processed by CDM. The rest of the 135 workers were farmed out to different licensed agencies using job orders. But were "reprocessed" or "repo"—a common practice among recruiters.

For a "repo," an agency can lend the balance of its job orders to another agency for a fee. One agency source admitted to a staff of the Ople Center that it received P7,500 per hired in processing fee from CDM's Connie Paloma.

"Reprocessing" enables the local agency to circumvent the process and shepherd its applicants through the POEA without their papers being questioned because the job orders exists in order, at least on paper. Workers leaving under "repo" are supposedly become instantly vulnerable to harassment and abuse by their employers and agents abused because of the disparity in their work and visa documents.

### Desperate housewives

The housewives of 16 remaining workers in Dubai have become desperate and contributed to borrow money from friends and relatives for remittance to their husbands stranded in Ajman Camp—a pitiful and frantic process of rotos.

What makes the situation extremely unjust is that out of the remaining 60 drivers, 30 have concrete job offers, this time legitimate, with Emirates Airline Catering. The 18 workers from that a particular office in the government of Bicol could just be another opportunity to come to Dubai. Only one thing stands in the way of employment—money, gratitude possibles amounting to a rough equivalent of more than P6 million, with daily fines tacked on to weeks pass.

Especially sad is the failure of the children of these breadwinners to enroll. "It's so painful but we couldn't do anything. Some people are even running after us, "case of the housewives said.

Despite their woes, the desperate housewives have found enough in each other, often calling each other up or sending text messages to give updates about pending concerns meeting say at the Ople Center in Pasay City to seek for help.

On Tuesday, Labor Secretary Marianito Roque informed the Blas Ople Center that the investigation penalties of the 60 remaining drivers in Ajman would soon be resolved in an outcome of his talks with Emirates officials last Sunday. The secretary had flown to Dubai for one day just to resolve the matter.

The drivers welcomed this good news with enormous relief and gratitude. Life pastime lately in Ajman Camp has become more acute. Imagine one with only a single room in the entire building having a working air-conditioner unit. Because of the intense summer heat in Dubai, the drivers are also in dire need of drinking water, and are reliant on the Office of the Labor Attaché for the steady delivery of water as well as food and clothes to power the building's electric generator.

### 'Repo' not tolerated

Secretary Roque has also ordered a crackdown on licensed recruitment agencies engaged in the repossessing of job orders and other forms of illegal recruitment. The POEA decision to cancel the licenses of 32 agencies involved in this scam still unabatedly send a strong signal to the industry that "repo" will no longer be tolerated.

CDM International Services and Placement Agency has been temporarily closed down. We are now awaiting the decision of the POEA on the administrative complaint for the cancellation of licenses for all 32 remaining agencies. The drivers also filed a criminal case which is now pending at the Department of Justice.

On June 19, a second hearing will be held at the executive judge's calls of RTC Manila on our petition for the compassionate to be declared as possible. If our petition for injunction is approved, the case can be realized off and hearings on the drivers' class suit to nullify the financial transactions connected to this illegal recruitment scam shall begin.

### Wanted: Connie Paloma

Connie Paloma, the CDM's operations manager who recruited all 137 bus drivers, remains at large and has been spotted once in Dubai. The request of the bosses to the Department of Foreign Affairs for her cancellation of her passport has been submitted by the Office of the Undersecretary for Migrant Workers' Affairs to their legal department for further study.

Editor's note: The author is the head of the Blas F. Ople Policy Center

# Single but in a complicated relationship with distressed workers

By Arnelle S. Tayao
Contributor

A SIMPLE DEVIL A GOOD NETwork of people and overbearing land work. That's all Elmer Jimenez needs to work for the welfare of OFWs, something she has been doing almost her entire life.

She's actually an engineer, but 47-year-old Elmer has never used the title. "I took the board exams, passed it, got my license and that was it! Period," she said.

Instead, Elmer, still single and three others' mentors now the Center for Migrant Advocacy, with Gaza as executive director. A non-government organization with an advocacy focused on lobbying for laws relevant to OFWs, CMA was officially born on Sept. 5, 2002. They held office in Teacher's Village, Quezon City.

Besides members on Filadelfo Alfaro, advocacy officer, and Hazel Gonzaga, office manager, and Ana Silvestre.

An experience in Burma in 1998, however, led Sister to the path she would now. "I was harassed pathetically at the commemoration activity of the 100th anniversary of the 100 anniversary," Sister said.

"I realized why am I going full-time while many concerning other people, when I might also was already becoming a physical wreck."

Sister's work now entails mostly her being in congressional hearings—sometimes even every week—are just for lawmaking but also to address oversight in existing laws. A current project Sister is spearheading is the Seafarers Voting Law. "We're appealing for a hasty consolidation of the proposed bills," she said.

But like of the group's work is policy advocacy which Gaza deems necessary to their lobbying work. "At hearings, you can't just cite cases of migrants to distress by your advocacy agenda," she said. "[So] our try to provide some little scientific services to the migrants because it has also to have meaning for the migrants themselves." The cases they receive, however, are all through referrals. "Because we are still excited to be effective, it should be government that guarantees the protection of our migrants," she added.

One simple way that the CMA is able to assist migrants in distress is through the SOS SMS Helpline (0920-963-9767). Started Helpline in 2006, the Helpline is the brainchild of migrants. CMA's partners in Saudi, who realized the potential use of the Filipinos' love for texting. "Text technology is very handy, saving us," Sister said.

"We, our partners in Saudi and the Department of Foreign affairs would naturally receive the text messages. We get to have direct contact with parties outside the country, making their responses more urgent."

And it's not just the OFWs who utilize this Helpline. Aunts has even kept in touch with associations through this system, which helps the group build their network of partners all over the world. "We're just four women, but how are we able to do so many things? The beauty of it is that, in cases, especially those cases, as many people helped us," she said.

And although her work does sometimes have her on simple joys still keep Sister going in what she does. "Simple news like a distressed migrant being able to come home, or sometimes people coming here bringing vegetables or something they just to just to say thank you; it's relieving, when out there."

Sister and her colleagues at CMA also make it a point to continue their collaborations with the government. "If they put their hands and minds into it, the case who really have the capacity to negotiate [with other countries] is the government," said Sister. "If [President] GMA wanted to, she could help out distressed people get home. And to say the migrants don't need [government]. But our advice is always to say government. It's their job."

LINK: Link-ing girl

The WORLD

Editor Lorenzo B. Bueno

# Iran hardliner Ahmadinejad reelected

TEHRAN—HARDLINE PRESIDENT MAHMOUD Ahmadinejad resoundingly won Iran's election, preliminary official results showed on Saturday, but his moderate challenger alleged irregularities and claimed victory for himself.

The head of the incumbent's support, nearly twice as many votes as former Prime Minister Mirhossein Mousavi with more ballots counted from Friday's poll, confounded widespread expectations that the race would at least go to a second round.

Ahmadinejad's reelection is likely to disappoint Western partners aiming to encourage Iran to halt work they suspect is aimed at making bombs, and could further complicate efforts by US President Barack Obama to reach out to Tehran.

"It doesn't augur well for an early and peaceful settlement of the nuclear dispute," said Mark Fitzpatrick at London's International Institute for Strategic Studies.

A bitterly fought campaign generated strong interest around the world and intense excitement inside Iran. It revealed deep divisions among establishment figures between those backing Ahmadinejad and those pushing for social and political change.

Ahmadinejad accused his opponents of trying to undermine the Islamic Republic through a policy of detente with the West.

Mousavi hit back by saying the conservative president had brandished "enmity" with his "extremist" foreign policy.

Lifting several complaints before official results were announced, Mousavi said late on Friday that many people had not been able to vote and that there was a lack of ballot papers.

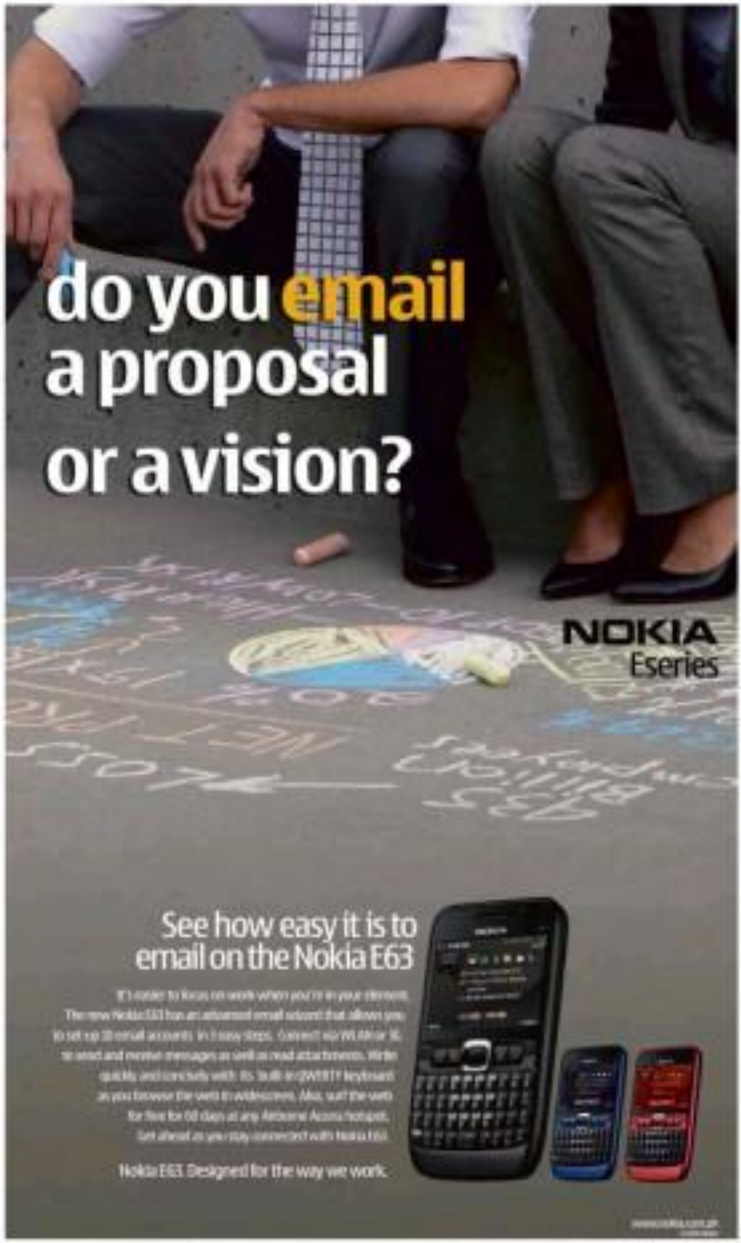
AHMADINEJAD media.

He also accused authorities of blocking text messaging, with which his campaign relied so much young, urban voters.

"I am the definite winner of this presidential election," Mousavi told a news conference.

But the most election commentators said Ahmadinejad had won almost 63.5 percent of the votes from the election in the world's 12th biggest oil exporter, with 38 million counted.

Reuters




## WORLD BRIEFS

### UN Council slaps tougher sanctions on North Korea

UNITED NATIONS—The United Nations Security Council has voted unanimously to slap tougher sanctions on North Korea to cripple its nuclear and ballistic missile programs. Washington hailed today's measure, but any hint that Pyongyang might respond with "further provocation." All 15 Security Council members endorsed a compromise resolution sponsored by Britain, France, Japan, South Korea and the United States to punish the Stalinist state for its missile firings and May 25 underground nuclear test. Resolution 1874, which does not authorize the use of force, calls on UN member states to expand sanctions first imposed on North Korea after its first nuclear test in 2006. It calls for tougher inspections of cargo suspected of containing banned items related to North Korea's nuclear and ballistic missile activities, a tighter arms embargo with the exception of light weapons, and new targeted financial restrictions to choke off an important source of revenue for Pyongyang's nuclear and missile sectors. AFP

### 6 more bodies found in Air France jet crash

RECIFE, Brazil—Six more bodies were recovered from the Atlantic Ocean where an Air France jet crashed, Brazilian officials said on Friday, as the race to find the black boxes and gather key evidence from human remains and debris gained urgency. On the coast, investigators examined recovered and received the first envelope: two plane seats, oxygen masks, water bottles and several structural pieces, some too bigger than a man's hand. Almost two weeks after the crash, Brazil's military said the search is becoming increasingly difficult and a tentative June 25 date for halting efforts has been set, beginning Monday, officials will move every two days to evaluate when to stop the search, depending on whether they are still finding bodies or debris. AP

### Suicide attack on Nato fuel tankers kills 8 Afghans

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan—A suicide car bomber hit a fleet of fuel tankers intended for a Nato base in southern Afghanistan, killing eight Afghans and wounding 21, officials said on Saturday. The attack on Helmand province late Friday burned 16 fuel tankers parked outside the base of Sangin, said Dawood Ahmadi, the spokesperson for the governor of Helmand. The trucks had been headed to a large Nato base that currently houses US and British troops. The attack killed eight Afghan drivers or their assistants, said Abdul Ahad Khan, the Sangin district chief. Twenty-one people were wounded, he said. AP

### Arise, Sir Dracula! Queen knights Christopher Lee

LONDON—The Lord of the Undead is now a knight of the British Empire. Christopher Lee, whose sonorous voice and burning black eyes made him a memorable anti-villain in films from "Dracula" to "Star Wars: Revenge of the Sith," was given one of Britain's highest honors on Saturday by Queen Elizabeth II. Sofia Nick Fabbi, captain of Europe's 2006 Ryder Cup team, was also promoted to "sir." He can add the title to his six major championship wins. Among the others receiving royal honors: Tony-award-winning actor Alec Cawthorne, for his work in Shakespeare in "63: It Was Limited" and his gay rights advocacy; celebrity hairdresser Vidal Sassoon, who lent his name to a worldwide brand of shampoos and scissors; and US economist David Blanchflower, who accurately predicted Britain's recession during his tenure on the interest rate-setting committee at the Bank of England. AP

### Sunni lawmaker assassinated in Iraq

BAGHDAD—A lawmaker and cleric who headed the largest Sunni bloc in parliament was assassinated at a mosque on Friday, a day after denouncing abuse in Iraqi prisons. His killer then gunned down an aide and three bodyguards and died before killing himself by tapping on his own grenade. The Sunni leader, Hashi al-Obaidi, was conducting Friday Prayer at al-Dawaa mosque in the upscale Baghdad neighborhood of Yarmouk when the gunman entered the mosque and fired at al-Obaidi and his guards, said Dawaa al-Mashadani, a spokesperson for the speaker of parliament. AP

WHAT'S INSIDE
■ Rizal, ILLAM batters win
/A25

Sunday SPORTS
Editor Teddyvic S. Melendres
Assistant Editor Francis T. J. Gloria

POWERFAST NEWS
Brought to you by:
Ibuprofen+Paracetamol
ALAXAN FR
If symptoms persist, consult your doctor.

# Double PBA knockout up at Big Dome today

By Marang R. Castillo

SOLOMON MERCADO-REMATO GAMEday like Ryan Reyes, leaving Batang Blaze and Ala Lucio as underdogs in a double knockout schedule today to determine the last two semifinalists in the Montclair PBA Fiesta Cup.

Both point guards are smoking fascinating injuries and a doubtful status when Montclair's Electro-Shooters slug it out with the Purefoods Tender Juicy Giants and Reyes' Realcom hosts Burger King at the Araneta Coliseum.

Purefoods will come into the 6:30 p.m. match-no. 84 (G. Gause 2 rebound in for 0-0)-no-win/all-loss situation while the Whoppers have momentum going into their dwelling mainly with the final score at 4 p.m. after pounding out a 94-81 victory in their last meeting.

"I think I can play," Reyes said a few days after filing in with the victorious Powerade B5 quintet. "There's still a little pain, but I think I can go."

Reyes pulled his left hamstring while going for a wide open layup against Welcoat's Enrico Villanueva last week, and coach Yeng Guiao, who ironically coaches Burger King, deemed it best not to put him back into mid-up pressure the injury.

Mercado, on the other hand, has missed the first two games against the Tender Juicy Giants after because of a (mastering) pull suffered in a no-breaking game with Rocket Ball (here weeks ago).

Team owner Raymond Yu told the last time yesterday that Mercado back practiced last week, but the smoky guard again felt some pain in his right hamstring and it's likely the coaching staff will be shifting him on a "same-to-save basis."

The winner of the Ms. Lucio-Burger King series will wait a semifinal date against elimination round topnotcher San Miguel while the victor of the Purefoods-Rain or Shine pairing will advance opposite defending champion Barangay Ginebra.

The Final Four action will be exclusively on Sun.

Awaited Source, who had a great start to the Series in Medan, Indonesia, will again be at the forefront of the Burger King attack, with help to come from Gary David and import Shawn Daniels.

The Brothers, on the other hand, will rely heavily on import Anthony Johnson, with Nelbert Omolon, Joseph Yeo, Jimmy Mariscal and veterans Hontiveros, Aquino and Ronnie Magsanoc to lend support.

Jayson Yap and Rudy Hernandez have kept their respective teams in Purefoods after star playing key roles in last season. Import Marquis Chandler, though, is expected to make all the difference in determining whether the Giants will keep playing on.

## Magic still believe

ORLANDO, FLORIDA—Orlando Magic coach Stan Van Gundy tried to sleep, but his clustered basketball team wouldn't relax.

Game 4 of the NBA finals, the one Orlando humbled away with obvious bee-there throwing, a ferocious third quarter and questionable late-game strategy, kept Van Gundy awake.

It may be many nights ahead.

With only a few hours to reflect on what went wrong late Thursday in the Los Angeles Lakers' 99-86 conference win, Van Gundy, who elected not to use his team lead with a three-point lead in the final seconds of regulation, was asked if a night's rest had brought him any clarity.

VAN GUNDY /AFP

"The assumption of a night's sleep is way off base," he said on a conference call.

Leading 87-84 with 11.1 seconds to go, the Magic allowed Derek Fisher, Lil's Mr. Big and Biggest Heat, to dribble into the frontcourt and hit a game-tying 3-pointer with 4.6 seconds left. Fisher, who would sink a fork in the Magic's hopes with another triple in overtime, made his shot over Orlando guard Jameer Nelson.

The Magic can't afford to look back any longer. They've got 2 mountains to climb. The Lakers, one win from their 15th NBA title, are the 30th team in league history to take a 3-1 lead in the finals. The other 20 claimed the title.

Los Angeles is hoping for Orlando's best shot.

"You have to stay focused," Bryant told after scoring 22 points in Game 4. "You have to hold on to your excitement and just prepare." AP

# Mayol eyes Calderon's title

## Newly minted Fighter of the Year Pacman at ringside

By Sidney G. Lagumbay, Contributor

HAVING FALLED IN TWO PREVIOUS TRIES, US-BASED FILIPINO RODEL Mayol will attempt to win the world title again today against unbeaten WBO junior flyweight king Ivan Calderon of Puerto Rico at the Madison Square Garden in New York.

And Mayol need not look far for inspiration as would-be pound-for-pound king Manny Pacquiao is expected to be in special ringside to show him on the 12-round fight serving as the chief support to the Miguel Cotto-Joshua Clottey WBO welterweight showdown.

Pacquiao, who was feted by the Boxing Writers Association of America as the 2008 Fighter of the Year Friday night (Saturday morning in Manila) will also receive that honour against the winner of the Cotto-Clottey bout.

The Mayol-Calderon clash will be beamed live in Puerto Rico, Britain and the Philippines.

At yesterday's official weigh-in, the 5-foot Calderon came in 106-¼ lb, while the 5-foot-4 Mayol checked in at 106-¾.

Calderon (32-0, 6 KOs) will be making the fourth defense of the junior flyweight crown he wrested from Hugo Cazares two years ago.

The 27-year-old Mayol (23-1, 15 KOs) will try to bury the memory of his failed title bids against then WBC minimum weight champ Eagle Kyowa (UD in May 2006) and Ulises Solis (TKO in 8 in August 2007).

Mayol spent several weeks of training at the Wild Card Gym at BWSA Tiniente of the San Fredilo Beach, Wadling, Mapolo, owned by Bobby Hernandez, who is also Pacquiao's Filipino trainer.

Clottey, a Ghanian who relinquished his IBF title to gain a crack at Cotto, runs a 35-2 record with 20 KOs while Cotto holds a 33-1 card with 27 KOs.

Cotto, who is being touted by pundits both in Puerto Rico and Las Vegas as the next Pacquiao, will draw support from about 800,000 New York residents with Puerto Rican roots.

Clottey is a power puncher who'll rather not chase Cotto around the ring all night, and he acknowledged that the difference in the encounter could be who lands more body shots.

"The game plan is the body attack, because I know he's also the body very good," Clottey said. "If I hit his body, he'll feel that."

Clottey weighed the maximum of 147 pounds (67% kilograms) when he stepped on the scale on Friday (on point). Cotto's lone issues from Cotto, and Rosado for a small group of reporters and promoters. *With reports from AP*

*Roy Luarca*

WELTERWEIGHTS Miguel Cotto (left) and Joshua Clottey have it up for the press after making the weight. ••

# Dolphins, Tigers join baseball semis cast

By Marc Anthony Reyes

CEBU AND ALABANG MADE QUICK WORK of their respective quarterfinal foes yesterday to book tickets to the semifinals of the Baseball Philippines Series 5 at the Rizal Memorial Ballpark.

Cebu held on to nip Dumaguete, 6-5, while Alabang bashed on a two-run triple-ruling in boot out Taguig, 7-3, to complete the four-team race in the semifinals beginning this Saturday.

Now comes the hard part.

The Dolphins moved up against seven-runaway hunter and undefeated home Batangas Bella, while the Tigers advanced against No. 2 qualifier Dos Manila Bandits.

Cebu and Alabang will have to win twice over their respective rivals, which need just one win to book a ticket to the finals.

The Dolphins took an 8-0 lead in the second before Batangas rallied behind a two-run home run by Mark Cabuenas in the lower seventh that set the Bond scare.

Third baseman Melvin Yupo and right-fielder Jake Carolan had two RBIs each as Alabang busted out Taguig.

The Tigers made their first appearance of the Tigers, who took the place of the Makati Warriors, the former 3 champions.

## Cyna rules Trans Am golf

CYNA RODRIGUEZ STRUMS UP MACH-to-back 77s to post a two-stroke victory over Elena Warren of the 67s in the Trans America Junior Golf Championships at the Jimmy Clay Golf Course in Austin, Texas recently.

Rodriguez, 17, three-time tireless against Joggys in the final round for a 20-36 card under windy condition, to-winning two-shots ahead of Warren with a 38-hole total of 148 to take the 15-18 age category.

The JCTG-backed her, who last won in the University of Florida Challenge last December but had one runner-up and two third place finishes in the FORT circuit, made a sizzling start in the first round, birdieing three of the first five holes. But she lost her touch at the back and made four bogeys to settle for a 33-43 score.

RODRIGUEZ

## Rosales misses cut by 1

WAYNE DE GRACE, MARYLAND—JENNIFER ROSALES RALLIED with an even par 72 but missed the halfway cut by a stroke in the $1.5-PGA Championship Friday.

Rosales, who started within 7, had a 36-hole total of 148, one shot off the cutoff mark of 147. Dorothy Delasin, who teamed up with Rosales in winning last year's women's World Cup, also failed to advance with a 155 (76-80) score.

Nicole Rockwell shaded a 36-foot birdie putt on the final hole to break a tie with Nicole Castrale and take the lead with an 8-under 136.

Rockwell, a rookie from Sweden, began the day in second place—one stroke behind Castrale before finishing with a 70. AP

# V-League: Lady Stags try to sweep Tigresses today

By Jane Navarro

SAN SEBASTIAN THEY'LL TOMBSTONE CHRYSLER-versity of Santo Tomas in the second game of their best-of-three series in the Shakey's V League Finals today.

The Lady Stags are going for a second straight sweep after whipping the Tigresses on 4 p.m. at the Philsports Arena in San Juan.

The Stags stunned the Tigresses in their title series opener with a straight-set 25-17, 25-22, 25-19 triumph.

"Prior to the finals, we lost two games in a row against UST," said UST coach Roger Dimapilis. "This time, we will get back at them in the most important games of the conference."

Just like in Game 1, Dimayrh again hopes to squeeze out the best from Thai Import Jaroensri Rudee and top server Charisse Sarabia.

Rudee, the league's leading scorer with 267 after the Final Four, is expected to nail the MVP plum in the awarding ceremony for outstanding players after the battle for third place between Adamson and FEU at 2 p.m.

The Lady Tigresses are also seeking a sweep of the Lady Tams after clinching the opener of their series.

"We hope to extend again their runin spikers and its swift-to-response," said Gregorio.

Mhiel Jane Bitoy, who spearheaded UST to three titles in the league presented by Cherifer and backed by Mikaza, Accel, Mighty Bond and OneCute, is second in the MVP race with 221 points.

But Bobe failed to draw support in Game 1 from Michelle Carolino, Rhea Dimaculangan, Shaka Orta and Alna Matea.

Besides the MVP awards to be given out are the best spiker, blocker, server, digger, receiver and Cherifer's most improved player, a three-cornered fight among Cherry Mae and Diane Gonzales of FEU and NSC's Joy Benito.

**GAME 2 TODAY**
(Philsports Arena)
4 p.m. – Adamson vs FEU (Game 2, Semis Semifinals)
4:30 p.m. – UST vs UST (Game 2, Finals)

## No comparing Seaba, SEAG stints

A BASKETBALL SOURCE SAYS an e-mail the other day inquiring about the performances of the Philippines in the 2007 Southeast Asian Games held in Nakhon Ratchasima, Thailand.

To particulars, he wanted to know if I still remember the scores of each game in the one-round event. The Philippines was represented by the PBA All-Stars. Cotton holds and not represented by Jamel Bautista.

"In my recollection, we romanced all our opponents in Nakhonratchasima. The games were all one-sided they were almost humiliating. Compared to their professional counterparts, the Filipino amateurs seem to have pro-fashioned terms based on nutrition, that's why I had to double-check. Just curious," wrote in the fax.

* * *

Now that he mentioned it, I too became curious. I went to Nakhon Ratchasima in 2007 and was sure that we had won all our games by wide margins, but the exact figures were forgotten.

"Do you remember?" I texted Jamel, hoping he could give me the exact figures.

Jamel said his records were at home. He was on his office at that time.

"All I recall is that we averaged over 80 points per game," he texted back. "Around 84-85."

Abbie Bonavera, the SEAGames Center team manager had the precise figures. He said the Philippines averaged a 45-point winning margin against the opponents.

In essence, the PBA-backed Philippine team coached by Yeng Guiao had participated in the recently concluded Seaba championship only had an average of 36 points to collect that included Malaysia, Indonesia and Singapore.

* * *

A scribe who covered both the 2007 SEAG and the recent Seaba explained that the difference scored higher than their performances in the tournaments because they had different opponents.

"Mhiel Jennart's intervention in Jamel and the players were in there and keep a viable and sustainable InsCan inside-outlary can.

"Yeng's objective, on the other hand, was to use the Seaba to get rid of the rotusts. Remember, this is only Yeng's second exposure to international competition and his first as head coach. Yeng was Orient Express's assistant in the 2007 Southeast Asian Games."

Because they know that their game is several notches above the opposition, the scribe said the pros also have a tendency to relax and let up sometimes.

"One thing I have to admit, the three teams fielded this year by our opponents are much taller and better trained than the last time I saw them play. The core of the Philippines has been culled from their 16-under team, from Magsipoc, the perennial whipping boy, has improved. They have hired a foreign consultant. Of course, we are still the most talented, but as before, one-on-one is a bogey."

IN HUDDLE

*Beth Celis*

# Palawan chess: Gomez still perfect

By Rey Luarca

GRANDMASTER JOHN PAUL Gomez handled National Masters Paterno Tolentino and Ronald Gulang in the third and fourth round, respectively, to gain the sole lead in the Dumaran Hungarian Open Chess Championship being held at the Gazebo Hall of the Dalaruan Provincial Capitol in Puerto Princesa City.

The top-seeded Gomez climbed to a perfect 4-0 points, moving ahead of former co-leaders International Master Richard Bitoon and NM Allen Ingcanamlad, who were at 3.5 points after downing their third round matches.

Bitoon whipped Master Corinne while Ingcanamlad subdued Tommy Salvarosa to stay within sight of the P100,000 champion's purse in the nine-round tournament being hosted by the Palawan provincial government headed by Governor Joel Reyes and Provincial Administrator Jimmy Bonoso. Stastolan, vice-president for Luzon of the organizing National Clean Federation of the Philippines.

GOMEZ

Notched at 3.0 points were Eric Rolando Nolte and Ruelo Nadera, Fide Emmanuel Sandoy, Tolentino, Gulang and Mitchenel Magat, Wat Antony Sarmo, Trino Olmedo, Chester Rene Guerrero, Raoul Brimbol, Felgar Cagampang, Jess Mabait, Markus Montana, Elgin Quiroz, Darmar Fabian and Roger Sustalatan.

The event is being supported by Palawan Provincial Sports Director Stanislaus Gabigan.

# Pacquiao highlights NCA showdown

THE NATIONAL COCKERS ALliance (NCA) is hosting another Big Event on June 20, Tuesday, at the Ynares Center in Antig City to give ways to popular demand.

The event will feature the much-anticipated showdown between the group of Manny Pacquiao and Patrick "Mel" Antonio versus the group of Gerry Ramos and Bertie Bautista.

The groups have faced each other in several events before, battling each other in exploration fights.

Antonio is fresh from winning 2009 NCA Cockers of the Year and runner-up at the NCA World Championship Derby last January.

The group of Ramos and Bautista includes the following big name players: Gov. Jo Ynares, Eric delos Reyes, Raul Hizadist and E. Jaurios, Manny and Arman Ramos and the Family Group of Boy Allan, Bernie Asuncion and Homer Mallebo.

Solo cockers James Uy, Ricky Reyes, Bebot Bautista, Tony Tan and Tony Marfori are also participating in the Big Event.

The NCA Big Event is sponsored by Sagupaan Complexon.

## 'Hatawan' derby at Roligon

ROLIGON MEGA COCKPIT OWNER ROLLY Lopez returns to the cockfighting circuit on June 16 by staging the "Hatawan sa Tag-Ulan(5-cock) derby."

The "hatawan" series, one of Roligon's top attractions every year, will be participated some by the country's leading breeders.

No less than P500,000 in guaranteed prize awaits the winners for an entry fee of P10,000. The management of the MBC has pegged the minimum bet at only P4,000.

Eliminations for "ROLI 4-cock derby" will be on June 16, Call 851-2270 and 852-8412 for details.

RAINMAKERS Officers of the Philippine Women's Basketball League, led by commissioner Nilo Fernandez, unveil the league banner with chair emeritus and WNBA chair Prospero Pichay (center).

# Rizal, ILLAM batters win

By Cedrik F. Tapas

MARIKINA, GUAM—INTERNATIONAL Little League Association of Manila (ILLAM) and Rizal province advanced to the World Series by pulling off commanding victories for the Philippines in the Asia Pacific Softball Championships at the Tarnaving Field here.

ILLAM unleashed a six-run binge in the final inning to complete a palong-ong come-from-behind 9-6 victory over Guam and a sweep of their best-of-five series for the Junior League (13 to 14 years) crown since Friday.

Rizal found an unlikely hero in Lito Aseo as the Filipinos also swept Guam with an abbreviated 11-1 rout in the Big League (16-18) division yesterday.

With the win, ILLAM secured a slot in the Junior League World Series in Kirkland, Washington from August 16 to 22. The Philippines won its first and only World Series crown in the division, courtesy of Bacolod six years ago.

Rizal will represent the country for the first time in the Big League World Series in Kalamazoo, Michigan from August 4 to 13.

Waded in the Little League (11 to 12) division after Guam swept Cavite, the Philippines looked poise to repeat one more title with ILLAM holding on to a 2-1 lead in its best-of-five series with Guam in the Senior League (14-16) division.

RIZAL players rue a victory lap with the Philippine flag.

"You just have gold off," said Illiad manager Rolly Rivera, who thanked former Rizal Gov. Casimiro Ynares and son, incumbent Gov. Jun Ynares for supporting the team even when it struggled in winning national tournaments. "It's been our dream to represent the country in the World Series."

"Guam is a very tough team, but the players didn't give up," said ILLAM Junior League coach Jessie Vitug, whose team trailed, 1-3, at the end of the first inning before tying the game in fifth frame.

Guam seized a 4-1 lead at the bottom of the sixth inning, before hits by Juliana Crampo and Sam Sarda scored Deane Cruz and Mit Limjoy-co to nip the gutsy fightback.

Czar Buenviaje, Lily Gonzales and Isco Diaz also scored on walks, before Ely completed the win by nailing one Cali Aseo for the final out.

Senders Bellesa sparkled on the mound for Illiad as she limited seven hits in just four innings before yielding the pitching duties to Jelly Mendiola.

But it was Aseo's efficient hitting that proved to be the difference for the girls of coach Gemelito Velasco. Aseo, who saw limited in the first three games, drove in three runs on two doubles and also scored a run.

Her first double in the second inning sent home Bellesa and Mendiola and his second two-base hit scored Rhein Gonzaga in the sixth.

"She found her timing during batting practice earlier that's why I decided to start her," said Velasco of Aseo, a sophomore at the University of Santo Tomas.

# Jose, Yap pace Masters qualifying; Paeng shines

JOSE

By Marc Anthony Reyes

RP SOUTH TEAM MEMBER CELLINO JOSE and former national squad stalwart Cecilia Yap flashed short brilliance Friday night but it was the legendary Paeng Nepomuceno who grabbed the limelight in the 2009 Philippine International Open weight lifting championships.

The 52-year-old four-time World Cup champion and Hall of Famer headed to the top nine of the Class O men's Masters qualifying in his own event, Paeng's Hardcore Bend at the Robinsons Place Ermita.

The southpaw legend, a seven-time winner of this event, fired 662 and 710 during the qualifying block for a 1,372 total which was good enough to send him to Saturday's Round 1 of the finals.

Jose, one of the RP hopes in the coming Asian Youth Games and bronze winner in last month's Asian Schools championships, had 1,420 pushlift to slip past some RP team member Rhea Flores (1,417) for the lead in the men's Masters qualifying.

Yap, who bagged the 2008 World Women's Championships trim with Lisa del Rosario and Lisa Chiongbo, displayed her old form, notching a six-game series of 1,350 to bag the No. 1 ranking in the ladies' Class O Masters.

Nepomuceno, who recently received his fourth Guinness Book of World record for winning 100 major trophies, was modest about his fine effort.

"I have not really prepared for this tournament," Nepomuceno told the bayanan. "I was away for a month with the family and didn't get a chance to bowl.

"But I will go out there and enjoy the competition."

The lucky ten who also qualified were Benedict Layson (1,232), Rafale Pelderer (1,607), Jomar Rabazar (1,402), Chester King (1,392), Jomar Amapao (1,379), Frederick Ong (1,377) and Paulo Valdez (1,375).

Leading the foreign charge was Hong Kong's Ho Hoi-hong (1,384), who scored the second perfect game last Wednesday. Behind him was Russell Vinkan Al Amiri (1,358) with another Hong Kong bigha, Micky Wong, (1,322) in third.

## Silver Cup kicks off; Ibarra favored

SUPER HORSE IBARRA SETS OUT as top favorite when he faces seven other gallopers in the 1400-Pint Gentleman Silver Cup, one of four big events highlighting a 14-race program this afternoon at the Saddle and Clubs Leisure Park in San Carlos.

Veteran Pare Dilema will handle the reins when Ibarra, co-winner of the PSA 2008 horse of the year award, takes a shot at the top prize of P1.2 million in the 2008-series race while going for his second straight win in the event.

Challenging Ibarra, the most prominent runner in the stable of Manchaoyong City Mayor Bonbon Abalos, are veterans El Terrible (Jeff Zarate), Shining Bone (Jesse Guce), Mr. Victory (Bodoy Fernandez), Dos Equis (Fernando Raquel), Hieroglyphics (Christopher Tacuna), Stryker (Jeff Salluran) and Steampunk (Antonio Alvarez, Jr.).

A 5-year-old son of Renegade and Fire Queen Stride, Ibarra has won one and lost one in the first two stakes races he competed in since January.

By Tim Chelse
@ Santa Ana Park

KAYA MO 'YAN!
AREA
RACE DATE
CONTACT PERSON
The biggest, grandest, longest running event in the country!
MILO
MARATHON
Sali Na!

IN THIS ISSUE
■ Iloilo, Davao new BPO hotspots /B3
■ In French fries Benguet potato growers trust /B4

Business Features Editor Margie Quiroga-Espino
Sunday BIZ

APO GALTAN
CRUDE HANDLING
PHOENIX STEEL CORPORATION

# Giving back, Ayala style

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

IT IS NO ACCIDENT THAT THE Ayala group of companies is today's oldest, largest and most profitable conglomerate with leading market positions in real estate development, banking, telecommunications, water distribution, electronics manufacturing, business process outsourcing and automotive dealership.

By looking well into the future and taking measured and yet calculated steps, the group was able to seize opportunities as they inevitably arose throughout its 175-year history, refusing to be slowed down by economic events such as two world wars and the peaks and valleys of the world and Philippine economies.

Thus, the group has come a long way from the small trading house called Ayala y Cia put up in 1834 by the first generation of intrepid Tuasels, who came from Spain to seek their fortunes in the Philippines, into the diversified group it is today, with the reins firmly held by the eighth generation of Zobels.

And from the day Ayala y Cia was established, the group never lost sight of the principle that it exists in enviable success in the Filipinos who put their hard-earned money in its wide range of products and services.

This is why as the group expanded, its ways of giving back to the country and the people with whom its history is inextricably linked did, too.

At first, Ayala's projects were philanthropic in nature, with money going into a number of worthy causes starting with the establishment by Doña Margarita Roxas de Ayala of the Colegio de la Inmaculada Concepcion Concordia in 1896, an exclusive school for girls that exists to this day, which was followed in 1910 by the company's funding of Mariconal Artral. Fernando Ancheta's art education in Rome and the development of low-cost housing and cottage industries for the poor that were sorely needed in the aftermath of World War II.

Then in 1968, suffix the group soon firmly entrenched in a number of industries vital to the Philippines' economic growth, such as banking and real estate, the group decided to put more order into its social development work and organized it under Philippine Foundation, the precursor of Ayala Foundation, which differed philanthropic work.

Under Filipinas Foundation, the country's first corporate foundation, the group provided land in 1969 for the site of the Asian Institute of Management, one of the leading higher education centers in the region and then in 1974 opened the Ayala Museum, with its treasure trove of archaeological finds and art collection, to the public.

More projects evolved with the Filipinas Foundation's vision to help improve the lives of the less privileged followed in quick succession. Its work reached a turning point in 1986, following the Edsa revolution that saw the Philippines return to the democracy with the restoration of President Corazon C. Aquino.

It was also at that time when brothers Jaime Augusto and Fernando came home to the Philippines from studies abroad to see how they can contribute to national development, to the same way their father and their father's father did before them.

Jaime Augusto, the current chair and CEO of Ayala Corp., recalls the excitement in the company to discover more as the Philippines basked in the glory of toppling a dictatorship without dropping a single drop of blood as the 1987 result.

"The democratic restoration after Edsa created an impetus and an opportunity for a company like Ayala to reexamine its contribution to nation building. Our father, who was then CEO, wanted Fernando and I to lead in clear corporate reexamination through the Ayala Foundation, which at the time, operated separately and independently from the companies within our group," Zobel explains in an interview.

That reexamination led to the tighter integration between the work of the foundation—the name of which was changed from Filipinas Foundation to Ayala Foundation in 1998—and that of the growing number of companies under the umbrella

SEE PAGE B2

THE AYALA group of companies focuses its CSR efforts on education, entrepreneurship and the environment under the banner "Ayala Social Initiatives."

AYALA Land continues to innovate in property development. The LIP-Ayala Land TechnoHub for IT-related businesses is a joint effort with the University of the Philippines.

LED BY WORKING hours and professional managers, the company became known as Ayala y Compañia in 1872.

THE FORT
RESIDENCES
Enjoy the Best of Both Worlds
Relax at the comfort of your own home and be a few steps away from the conveniences of urban living. Strategically located at Bonifacio Global City, The Fort Residences is within the vicinity of major establishments like Market! Market!, Pricesmart, the upcoming St. Luke's Medical Center, The Fort Strip, Manila Golf and Country Club and so much more—giving you unlimited lifestyle options!
Call us today at (632) 3971888, 3470101 or 09228380888 or visit www.robinsonsproperties.com.ph
ROBINSONS LAND

# Discipline: Path to potential

HE MAY HAVE BEEN THE MOST naturally gifted baseball player of all time.

He was clocked running the bases in an incredible 13 seconds flat, his speed was nothing compared to the power of his hitting.

It's been said there were Some Ruth Rulers, and then there was this man — in a league of his own.

The Guinness Book of World Records credits him with hitting the longest home run ever measured, at 643 feet.

The player I'm describing is the great Mickey Mantle.

By the age of 39, he had been called up to play for the New York Yankees.

He won a World Series his rookie year, and his teams would capture seven championships over the course of his career.

By the time he retired, Mantle had played more games as a Yankee than any other player, and had been named MVP of the American League three times.

He still holds the all-time World Series records for home runs, runs scored and runs batted in.

Yet, in spite of his impressive accomplishments, experts believe Mickey Mantle never reached his potential.

Most blame Mantle's chronic knee injuries for preventing him from doing more. But injuries weren't the root of the problem. What most people didn't know was that Mantle was a raging alcoholic.

At age 62, with his health and family life a mess, Mantle checked into the Betty Ford Clinic and started the long road to sobriety.

## Unfulfilled potential

Looking back from this vantage point, he mustered his career: "I never fulfilled what my dad had wanted for be the greatest player who ever lived), and I should have.

God gave me a great body to play with, and I didn't take care of it. And I blame a lot of it on alcohol.

Everybody tries to make the excuse that injuries shortened my career.

Truth is, after I'd had a knee operation the doctors would give me what's it do. but I wouldn't do it. I'd be out drinking ... I hurt my knees through the years, and I

just thought they'd naturally come back.

Everything has always come natural to me. I didn't work hard at it."

Despite his great natural talent, Mickey Mantle never disciplined himself off the field.

By the time Mantle was ready to change, it was too late. His liver was ruined from a life of alcoholism, and he died at age 64 from inoperable cancer.

## Truths about discipline

What were you born to do? What is your dream? To become the person you have the potential to be, you have to cultivate a life of discipline. Consider these truths concerning discipline:

**Discipline comes with a price tag.**

Discipline is costly. It demands a continual investment of time, energy and commitment in the expense of momentary pleasure and ease. Discipline means paying hours of practice to win the prize of skill. Discipline means giving up short-term benefits for the hope of future gains. Discipline means pressing on in excellence long after everyone else has settled for average.

**Discipline turns talent to greatness.**

When you read about someone like Michael Mantle, you realize that too much talent can actually work against someone.

Super-talented individuals can count on sheer ability and neglect building the daily habits of exercising self-motivation.

Poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow observed much insight when he wrote:

> The heights by great men reached and kept
> Were not attained by sudden flights,
> But they, while their companions slept,
> Were toiling upward in the night.

If you want to reach your potential, attack it strong with effort in your talent.

**Disciplined listeners are thinkers, not conditioners.**

In general, people approach daily discipline in one of two ways. They focus on the external or the internal.

Those who focus externally allow conditions to dictate whether or not they remain disciplined.

Because conditions are constantly changing, their discipline level changes like the wind.

## Making choices

In contrast, people with internal discipline focus on choices. The reasons control circumstances, not the circumstances control them.

By focusing on your choices, and making the right ones regardless your daily discipline.

Discipline does not bear down to feelings.

As Arthur Gordon said, "Nothing is easier than saying words. Nothing is harder than living them, day after day. What you promise today must be renewed and redecided tomorrow and each day that stretches out before you."

If you do what you should only when you really feel like it, then you won't build disciplined habits. At times, you have to act contrary to emotions.

If you refuse to give into your lesser impulses, no matter how great they will make you feel in the moment, then you'll go far.

## Summary

Discipline is a matter of taking moral responsibility for your actions. Choose to follow correct reasons for the moments of your life.

Choose to go beyond your natural talent. Choose to make wise decisions repeatedly.

Choose discipline as the path to your potential.

*Revised* The 2009 John Maxwell Leadership Summit: Leading in Challenging Times at the Echo Hangout in Iloilo or June 23,2009. Also featuring in this event is a special interview with former British Prime Minister Tony Blair. Call 4072634/8918-7824382 or 8132272 to book your seats.)

# Way to loved ones' heart is through the World Wide Web

From page B1

by an award of munich, businesses is "doing really good." She said they're looking at possibly the current money wielding with a television ad already finished last year for a nationwide broadcast.

Come said, however, that their service will also cater to the needs of clients ordering for local delivery as what happened in the case of the General Santos-based girl related earlier. Come said she did not initially think about the possibility of local deliveries by orders, but the expenditures of Mr. Gonzalez of Santos client—who happened to be her friend—changed that.

"You know, many of us have this distances long-distance relationships that are need to keep. Many of us are living in Manila and our families live in Davao or Cagayan de Oro. We have the desire to maintain those ties like what my friend did. And because the order was placed literally 3 pms for a 23-

# In French fries . . .

From page B1

for French fries since supplies come from their parent companies.

Three companies are also banned to import potatoes under a purchase agreement with their foreign suppliers.

"The largest restraint of big companies is that they blocked the chances of local potato growers to emerge a major producer of the market, though quality wise, they are not far behind," Dost said.

But even if big companies were to give local potato varieties a fighting chance, the ability of local farmers to package and supply the volume needed for French fries remains a challenge.

"Benguet farmers could not cope with the demand schedule for potatoes of fast-food chains," said Lavrin Reyes-an, a farmer from Mankayan town.

Patricio Anareyo, the Department of Agriculture's marketing assistance division chief in the Cordilleras, said the DA-11 contains "are not yet established in the farmers."

Jane Andan of Benguet Federation of Farmers Inc. said the problem lies with the lack of planting materials.

Records of the provincial agriculturist's office showed that the province produced 248,116.24 metric tons of potatoes in 2008. There were harvested by 30,877 farmers from 12,804.93 hectares of potato farms.

But town is the province's potato capital. It produced 146,219 MT last year, followed by Mankayan with 100,486 MT, and Buguias with 19,390 MT.

Lidia Bwayan, provincial agriculturist, said most of the harvests are the so-called table-type potatoes, which are high in water content.

"As of now, I am not aware of a farmer who supplies potatoes directly to a multinational company that produces French fries," she said.

According to the NSO2007C, there are some 7,000 farmers who plant 850's new potato varieties. But their annual production has yet to be evaluated.

Dost said some farmers have tried to enter into a contract growing scheme with traders for potatoes to be processed.

But the contracts usually involve all cities out-lapse, he said, because the farmers could not afford to be tied to the terms of a supply agreement. Traders' prices at the vegetable trading post have tend to increase, emerging the contract price they agreed upon.

# Giving back, Ayala style

From page B1

of Ayala Corp.

Thus, even before corporate social responsibility (CSR) became the buzzword that it is today, Ayala was already putting the concept in practice and unleashing to full potential. The seed of the foundation and no less than the chief executive officers of the two companies came together to put one table to hammer out ways they can leverage on each other's strength to help solve society's ills.

That outcome marked the first step in integrating CSR in the strategic business model and the education became the top priority.

The Ayala group has always believed that improving the quality of education in the Philippines is the fundamental problem as well as fundamental solution to creating a brighter future for the country.

The ambitious programs born out of the simplest focus on education was the Center of Excellence in Public Elementary Education in 1998, which gave many Iloilo children from lower income families access to top quality basic education, followed the next year by the Ayala Young Leaders Congress that sought to foster values-based leadership among the young and Dollars's focus, which encouraged individuals and corporations to share in some of their time to help improve the quality of life of Filipino children in need.

Then in 2004, the new Ayala Museum in its new home in Greenbelt 4 was dedicated to the Filipino people and continues on its mission to enhance Filipino pride in their history and heritage.

Modeling after the Ayala group such as the Bank of the Philippine Islands, Ayala Land Inc. and Globe Telecom immediately free their support to these vital programs to education. However, these flagship projects remained mainly under the mantle of Ayala Foundation with the companies providing needed funds and expertise.

The Ayala group wanted to do even more and in response to the challenge was to launch in 2007 of the Ayala Social Initiatives (ASI).

All called on the individual companies as well as the group itself to pursue their own corporate social responsibility projects and align them with their core business. In this way, as they do good, they will do well, and not for a few months or years, but over the long haul.

And to ensure maximum impact and avoid spreading themselves too thin, the group limited the areas of engagement to three: Education, entrepreneurship and environment, which it deemed the most pressing problems facing the country and, at the same time, the highest opportunities to make a difference.

Ashati stresses that the ASI is not just about organizing CSR activities under these themes.

The Ala...education, entrepreneurship and environment—now have the triangle of the group's intensive practice of CSR both at the group level and down to the individual companies and business units.

"Through education and entrepreneurship, we provide them to enrich with opportunities to help improve their capacity and change," Tobal says. "By working for a sustainable environment, we provide a greater number of people with a physical and social ecosystem that sustainably upgrades their standard of living."

Ayala Land Inc., which depends on a healthy environment for its long-term prospects, is taking the lead in environment protection and in Subi Waste Management programs it is flagship project.

By getting the companies and individuals under to wide area of influence to reduce, reuse and recycle...it contributes to the solution to global warming and at the same time enhancing the value of its projects.

The Bank of the Philippine Islands and Globe Telecom Inc., on the other hand, have embarked on projects that promote entrepreneurship, a surefire way of weaning the less privileged from the depths of poverty.

BPI set aside a P500-million fund for microfinance that small entrepreneurs can tap, while Globe has its program enabling telecommunications to have another source of income by selling phone credits.

In education, where the stakes are highest, the group decided to go beyond its borders and seek partners who share its vision of a better and more prosperous Philippines for all. It is true after all...more hands make work light. And there is much to be done.

One landmark example of partnership is the Gearing up Innovations Literacy and Access for Students (Glias), which has an ambitious goal of connecting all public schools in the country. With Glias, rivals such as Globe and Smart Telecom can leave competition behind and instead harness their strength to help bridge the digital divide.

Some 1,000 schools have already been connected to the wonders of the Internet through Glias and another 1,000 are expected to be added by the end of 2009, thus enabling Glias to reach a million high school students by the end of the year.

The group would not have been able to do the task alone—even with the resources and talent at its disposal—and it is letting others share in the load in many partnership programs. The economy of the nation ahead demands no less.

Yet, despite the daunting challenges ahead, the Ayala group approaches its work with the enthusiasm and the energy that have been with it since the needs of the conglomerate were planned 175 years ago.

It's because it's not only in new approach and unwavering vision...it does not only see already the world it seeks, it is also on its way to make it a reality.

## GOINGS-ON

### Landbank's best partner

LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES chief Banco de Oro as the Best Countryside Loan Fund (CLF) Program Partner in two major categories during the Countryside Loan Fund awarding held recently at the Diosdado Macapagal Hall, Land Bank of the Philippines in Makati, Manila.

BDO emerged as the Best Countryside Loan Fund Program Partner in the commercial banks category. This was in recognition of BDO's active use of the CLF programme in terms of number of projects financed, regional dispersal of these projects and their socioeconomic contributions to the sustainability and the economy.

The bank was also named Best Countryside Loan Fund Program Partner in the agri-agro banks category, for having the most number of agri-agro projects financed under the CLF programs.

### Online registration for franchise meet set

THE 12TH PHILIPPINE International Franchise Expo and Conference (PINEC) is now accepting online registration by participants through www.ulb.org or www.franchise2009.com.

For this expo, those who register online can avail themselves of rare free-expo tickets.

Franchise 2009 offers four events in one—a conference on July 1 and 2 at the Crowne Plaza Galleria Manila; a three-day expo on July 3-5 at the SMX Convention Center; a seminar on "How to Franchise your Business" and "How to Evaluate a Franchise" on July 4 and 5 at SMX, and the Certified Franchise Executive (CFE) Program on June 29 and 30 at the AIM Conference Center in Makati City.

### CebuPac treat

CEBU PACIFIC has offered a one-day P111 all-in "Go Lite" seat sale for all of its domestic sectors in celebration of the 111th anniversary of Philippine independence.

This was made available June 12 and valid for travel from May 1 to 30, 2009.

CEB, Asia's 3rd largest low-cost carrier, flies to 14 cities in Asia and 33 domestic destinations with direct flights from Cebu, Cebu, Davao and Manila.

### Ferro C bags award

FERRO-C, a quality Vitamin C capsule, was awarded the Superbrands seal of excellence by Superbrands organization in a ceremony hosted by the independent arbiter on branding.

Superbrands represents over 27 countries across four continents, and is widely regarded as the world's leading brand recognition program.

Brands are chosen based on market dominance, longevity, goodwill, customer loyalty and market acceptability.

GDFB-C became a household brand with a very strong loyalist following, only within three years from its launch in 2004 due to its innovative distribution system. Closing the tribute night held at Le Souffle in Port Bonifacio, Piero C., representatives Hannah O. Encabo-Ramos, business development and risk-taking head, and Catherine Ann Francisco, corporate communications officer, was awarded the Superbrands trophy by Ram Mirpuri, chair, and Eamonn Sadler, chief executive officer.

### Zest Air buys 6 aircraft

ZEST AIR president and chief executive officer Alfredo M. Yao recently signed an agreement for the delivery of additional six MA60 aircraft. The ceremony was held in Manila with Xi an Aircraft International Corp. president Jiang Jianjun signing on behalf of the aircraft manufacturer.

Closing the contracts that bolstered the carrier's P16B embassy counselor Wu Shengping and SAIC president Jiang reassured Yao of the full support of the Chinese government and SAIC for Zest Air's fleet expansion program to make to their growing market.

# Iloilo, Davao new BPO hotspots

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
Inquirer Visayas

ILOILO CITY—AN INTERNATIONAL MAGAZINE has named the cities of Iloilo and Davao as two of the world's new hotspots for business process outsourcing (BPO) investments.

BusinessWeek magazine said Iloilo and Davao were among the 31 cities that were being eyed by BPO investors due to two iconic and political pressures to outsource work to lower-cost cities, said an article posted on its website last May 2.

While widespread layoffs in Western countries, especially the United States, have affected global outsourcing providers highly skilled workers are limited in their presence in the United States, many firms were still looking to invest in less costly cities in South America, Europe and Asia, according to the article.

BusinessWeek is a global source of business news with more than 4.9 million readers weekly in 140 countries.

The magazine cited a report released in February by EPIKC, a global network of professional services firms, which said the two Philippine cities were rapidly emerging to compete with traditional BPO destinations, such as Bangalore, Chennai and Shanghai.

In its "Exploring Global Frontiers" report, EPIKC said that as "traditional (BPO) locations rapidly approach saturation point, "there is a sizable opportunity for these new and emerging locations to swallow up a large proportion of the new outsourcing work, which the world stands to apparently consume."

Iloilo was cited for its large talent pool owing to a number of educational institutions and strong English skills of the population.

The report noted that Iloilo City is the educational hub in the Philippines' Western Visayas region with six universities, more than 50 colleges and technical schools producing more than 17,000 graduates per annually.

It said the talent pool was suitable for voice-based operation of call centers due to populace's diction and cultural similarities with the United States.

The city's IT-BPO industry has also significantly grown. There are seven BPO firms in the city, with 2,000 employed in 2007-2008.

The IT-BPO services in the city include call centers, software development, medical and other data transcription, animation and digital content, and engineering design, according to the report.

Davao was also cited because of its English-speaking talent pool with many cultural ties to the United States owing to its large number of universities and colleges.

Some companies were setting up train-ing centers in Davao, which were also being used to train the companies' employed Filipino order-capturing centers in the country, the EPIKC report said.

PEOPLE are flocking to Iloilo City not just for the Dinagyang, but also for its BPO scene.

Get more from the bank that values you more.

Open an account now in any of 163 PSBank branches nationwide. Manage your account online via PSBank Remote Banking.

5%*

- Minimum deposit of Php 50,000
- 5-year placement, tax-free
- With interest income paid monthly

PSBank Prime Time Deposit

Sunday BIZ

BENGUET farmers pack their produce at the La Trinidad trading post.

# In French fries Benguet potato growers trust

By Ordinar Carino
Inquirer Northern Luzon

BENGUET, BENGUET—IT IS STILL AN uphill climb for Benguet's potato growers who hope to clinch a outlet in the lucrative French fries industry.

The province produces most of the country's supply of potatoes. It is these tubers the best varieties are grown, that are, up until now, eaten for potatoes to be made into chips or fries are way below those imported by giant fast-food chains like Jollibee and McDonald's.

Thanks to experts from the Benguet State University (BSU) here, the province's farms now boast of tapioca, Scobbian, durum and Sangoma potato varieties that possess the desired dry matter content for those yellow, crispy and tasty French fries.

But according to the Northern Philippines Root Crops Research and Training Center (NPRCRTC) in BSU, the strict quality criteria of multinational food chains have kept the province's potato growers from carving a slice of the market.

Apolinario Legaspi, a farmer from Camp 30 in Mt. Cloud, said he used to supply potatoes to a Metro Manila-based company for seven years, but that deal was cut short when the firm changed its mind.

"I was told they processed my potatoes into fries. Later, they said they would import," he said.

Legaspi, 67, said the buyer wanted the potatoes to be of uniform size (extra large), clean and spotless.

He said the company would pay P2 more than the market price at the negotiable trading post in La Trinidad.

Dr. Johnny Dali, NPRCRTC director, said aside from quality, farmers have to grapple with other concerns. These are the high-end markets' inherent attitude toward locally grown potatoes, the instability of farmers to sustain the volume of production needed for French fries, lack of technology to package the potatoes ready for frying, and the absence of a marketing arm that would seal supply agreements with multinational buyers.

Lately, local processors have resumed sourcing Benguet's potatoes, Dali said.

Some local companies are now selling French fries and potato chips made from locally sourced potatoes, he added.

"But the big companies have yet to connect calees from Benguet farmers," Dali said.

He said he learned that a multinational fast-food chain branch operating in front of the La Trinidad Town Hall needs as much as 6,000 kilograms of fresh potatoes a week.

A group of investors from Metro Manila, who met with La Trinidad Mayor Jeremias Calubaon and Benguet Farmers and Traders Association (BFTA) officials recently, said big French fries firms in Metro Manila needed at least five tons of potatoes per hour per machine to meet the demand of consumers.

"Imagine, one company has several fries processing machines," said Renato Tungao, the group's spokesperson.

The United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) reported in 2008, the International Year of Potato, that at least 13 companies produce chips and French fries in the Philippines.

FAO said the demand for French fries in the country has grown at a rate of 25 percent a year.

Dali said Northern Luzon's fast-food corporations do not have the liberty of securing their own sources of potatoes

AUTHORS BIO

# Holcim on cement trail

## Firm finds reward in completed bridges, roads

By Vincent Cabreza
Inquirer Northern Luzon

TULAYAN RIVER CROSSING: Cement giant Holcim Philippines executives at the bridge in Luzon for a marketing caravan that entered and passed highways and recently built flood control facilities.

VIGAN CITY—CORPORATE EXECUTIVES from cement giant Holcim Philippines recently undertook an arduous trek through the concrete jungle of Manila and out in the open areas that marked unfinished road projects in the Ilocos region.

Members of the national caravan took note of the drastic shift from the smooth 94-kilometer stretch of the Subic-Tarlac Expressway to portions of dug-up asphalt and concrete roads through Tagudin town, Candon City and other towns heading for Vigan.

It was "jarring," said a Holcim executive.

During the trip, the Makati executives who had to endure long hours of traffic jams, even in interior Ilocos towns, realized that the current tendency has become a literal nuisance to building block, said Eduardo Sabangan, Holcim senior vice president.

Apart from its contribution to traffic flow and the mobility of food, resources and people around the country, cement is important in the enhancement of people's lives, Sabangan said.

"You can't build a telecommunications tower without a cement base," he told a group of reporters who joined the caravan this week.

"There are just too many applications for cement that people do not realize."

Sheryll Yee, Holcim external communications officer, said the caravan showcased the expressways, as well as Holcim's participation in developing a labor-intensive village into a 300-family community called Severa Homes, whose grade school and high school education is subsidized.

The caravan proceeded to the 80-year-old Historic Cemetery plaza in Sacanton, La Union, which the firm converted into a state-of-the-art facility that has empowered the local farming community with alternative marine projects.

Tourism has not slowed down, but residents have been suffering from unfinished road projects since 2008, according to a member of the Vigan tourism office.

"They finally completed the roads to Ilocos Norte, and the new diggings [along the route] proved big. Signal were started in February," the member said in Ilocano. "Hopefully, we can see them finished before the elections in 2010."

Maynard Cano, Holcim regional sales manager, said the road projects are an equivalent of 7 million bags. Because of the pump-priming allocations initiated by the government, sales could climb up to 8.5 million bags or more, he said.

According to Sabangan, the company is confident the cement industry will "ramp substantial rewards" in the coming elections.

The Department of Public Works and Highways reported that government spent P40,456 billion to complete 8,336.608 kilometers of national roads and 20,422 linear meters of national bridges last year.

Historic ruins in the Ilocos region formed the sites have steadily grown in a period when cement demand should be dropping due to the rains.

"Decisions are made so fastest (decisions) has run smoothly," said Yee, one of the new Holcim residents who were recruited to help the firm increase access to its products here. With a report from RT Espiritu, Inquirer Northern Luzon

HOLCIM senior vice president Eduardo Sabangan (at) company officials from as far as Mindanao in planning sessions at the company's cement plant in La Union.

# Way to loved ones' heart is through the World Wide Web

By Jeffrey M. Tupas
Mindanao Bureau

DAVAO CITY—A DABAWENYA in New York City wanted to give her mother, a nurse, a surprise during Mothers' Day, but the time difference and their inoperative work schedules, made it impossible for the daughter to even make a call.

Not standing to miss the opportunity to express how she missed her mom in the Philippines, whom she did not see for quite a while now, the daughter instead ended up treating her to lunch—for three consecutive days—at/near the mom hospital where she works.

In General Santos City, a girl friend could not stand the thought of her boy friend marooning himself in his room of pursuing her habit of skipping breakfast.

The girl friend could not let the petty lovers' quarrel drag on for days.

So the boy friend got a surprise power offering—a package of fresh and steaming food—delivered right to his office, by him and for his officemates.

Now, should you want to be a misunderstanding with your sister or your best friend, or if you just want to surprise them with something special, try Pinoy Takeout—just like what the two girls did.

Although still an infant in the online ordering service, Pinoy Takeout (www.pinoytakeout.com), guarantees customer satisfaction with their "Pasugo Ko si Pagsecondthat" (natural with love)" brand.

Hannah Chloe Cano, also a Dabawenya living in San Jose, California, and the brains behind Pinoy Takeout, explains that, ideally, their goal is to deliver orders within one to two hours, after they were placed, "no matter what time it is, no matter what time zone."

Pinoy Takeout, Cano said, is different from the other online ordering service companies because, aside from the usual food items and gift shops in Legaspi.com.

"Unlike our competitors who require at least 24 hours before they deliver, and some don't even guarantee from food companies to food their food," Cano said.

Cano, 24—who recently quit a high-paying job as facilities coordinator for a semiconductor company in California to work on her personal relationship for a career consultancy firm in Chandigarh, India—said the idea came to her while she was having a long online conversation with a friend who was in the Philippines in August of last year.

In the middle of their chat, her friend, who was in the middle of night-shift work at an off-sourcing firm, told her that he was hungry. His thought of surprising him with food but she learned that the food chains in the Philippines won't accept her credit card.

"It was midnight and he was hungry. I wanted to surprise him and I tried to see if this food chain would take my card and deliver the food to him but I was told they don't do it. Then the idea just came and it all began. I started to do my research if this kind of service is available in the Philippines. I found out that there is one but the service is only for Metro Manila. And some don't for the provinces, but it's not real time service," Cano told the business in a telephone interview.

Cano said that the business was designed for Filipinos everywhere to pamper their families in the Philippines with little surprises like food and gifts items "right away." The idea, she said, was a result of her own love for surprises.

"I always surprise friends and I, myself, love surprises," she said, as she explained how small gestures of thoughtfulness would naturally fuel feelings of love and being loved.

Cano, the youngest in a family of six, was born in Davao and left for the United States when she was 15. Her parents also live in Los Angeles. Her siblings, she said, are now in Dubai, but many of her relatives and friends are still living in Davao City. She took Communication Studies at Glendale College and International Business with concentration in Area Studies for Asia at San Jose State.

"The idea was 'bought on site or pagpromotibal' [food items with love] and it's a very sweet feeling. The heart of the transaction is the element of surprise and the feeling that comes along with it. And the beauty of it is that it is available right away," Cano said.

Working with at least six partners now, Pinoy Takeout is currently negotiating with a popular food chain and eyeing 18 other potential partners to widen their coverage. Right now, the existing partners are located in the cities of Davao, Cotabato, Butuan, Cagayan de Oro and Cebu. The negotiations with leading food products are aimed at opening the market in Manila and other provinces.

Originally, she said, the business was to have "Davao" as part of the "business name but because she wanted the operations to cover the whole country, she settled with "Pinoy" because of brand consciousness.

"Takeout is a Pinoy term. Once here we say 'to go.' Our main product focus is food delivery, although we offer flowers and other gift items," she said.

Upon opening the website, one will be welcomed by a slideshow of food and goodies that can be ordered and delivered immediately. The menu, performed by Davao-based Dalad Kayk, swipe up the objective of Pinoy Takeout: "Pagbalikbayong ulay magmahalan, di na mangagabile, pero nang parte ng lipgas, padala dung serpisyo."

Once a Pinoy wants to order something for their families in the Philippines, Pinoy Takeout will contact their local partners. The orders, worth a minimum of $35.00, are paid through credit cards.

"Whatever they want to order, wherever they may be around the world, they can order for their families in the Philippines," she said.

The business has been fully operational since April. Cano said that, although they still re-

MORE B5

IN THIS ISSUE
Twitter (or how you can now officially let your life pass you by) /E1

Sunday LIFESTYLE
also Thelma Sioson San Juan

# Moreno on Moreno

JOET VIRGINIA MORENO HAS written on us many an elite article: "Mary Moreno to be named National Artist?" (Inquirer Lifestyle, June 3, 2009), which reports speculation that President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo would name her brother National Artist for Fashion Design, bypassing the difficult and democratic selection process for the awards.

She wrote: "...I'm amused by this talk of brewing trouble—not of Monnie's knowledge or doing—that if the President confers this (unmerited? questioned?) National Artist award for fashion design on Jose B. 'Pitoy' Moreno, it is the President's exclusive choice and judgment alone, on the 30 years—Gloria-coup, Sto. nop Tinkler-Wars of the Arts and Liberal Mercan to his million Parol Making 2009 Tribute Show at the Cultural Center of the Philippines for Young Artists, for Gawad Kalinga and for Bantay of an Order I've forgotten, who pony over him. Morphing, it's the President's lone personal choice!"... Consequently all that manna of prestige, rituals and comforts granted to a proclaimed National Artist, such as the lifelong pension of originally P15,000, pared medical bills, a grand state funeral and, at last, a niche in the Libingan ng Mga Bayani. All such gifts of the State would be credited to the President's largesse and majesty. Is millionaire?"

She added, "So one of three members of the Moreno clan, honored, unquestionably with the highest state awards by also a republics, from the French Republic on the late Ambassador Luis Moreno y Laforde to Franco and Unesco Pitti, and the German Federal Republic on Oscar Moreno Lopez—beat and now, I see clearly, robustly and shrewdest advocate the surest of the Philippine Republic to confer its National Awards for Artists under the same strictest Republican principles, with the dignity of the silence of medals in their election of the flops, to be bestowed anon by the graces and ceremony with which the Japanese Emperor confers the jewels with National Treasures on peasant women in kimono design series."

Virgie said her brother had been received abroad by the late Princess Margaret in London, Spanish Queen Sophia in Madrid, the King of Morocco and "a Japanese princess at the exclusive Mito Museum. But, it's not quite correct to call as 'rubbing elbows' these royal hearing and Moreno's offered presidence, approved by protocol, to perform many events of Philippine culture. And as other receive credentials credited to him, why should he receive an invitation and denied to his own country's palace when there are 'hospital, making silent?

"It's hard labor, and at what cost, are these Moreno Theaters of Culture Shows in the service of and glory to the Philippine Republic? Demanding of management skills with honed artistry, immensely stressful and expensive as to put the family's health and bank account at risk. I know, I've the other Moreno in his brother-and-sister act in all the half-century celebrations of Philippine Independence Day: from the first, 12th June 1964, Ginoog Kayamanggo, a historic pageant, [with] Virginia B. Moreno as librettist, music by Lucio San Pedro, choreographer L. Urduja of Bayanihan, authentic costumes by Jun B. Moreno, where it opened in New York's Lincoln State Theater of the Rockefeller Foundation. To Uncross Penn Theatre, 12th June 1996, Philippine Independence Day where the Filipino chamber music paid their honorific earned frames to Moreno's decree Fr. Teresa Enriquez Foundation Scholar Panels in Pasig, Manila. To the 1998 Philippine Independence Day Centre, cast in the Walk On Lux Walk of Our Here Dr. Jose O Bind, where our grandchildren in numerals on this tragic day were Moreno's Under Mario Claro and having costumes."

Virgie also cited her brother's books on Filipino fashion—"Philippine Costume' and 'Kasalan' richly documented the origins, crafting and beauties in our Source Barrgay Woose the family heirlooms of pinas and jusi silks, mestizas de Bomba, ethnic jewelry hats, shoes and Ang finds trimlas."

She added, "I Moreno Foundation grants yearly scholarships to the best students of the UP College of Medicine and UP College of Fine Arts (my alma mater)... Surely a fine doctor from six of those beneficiaries would care for a patient named Jose B. Moreno if he lands to the PGH charity ward, now cleaner and better-equipped from a Rafael Pinto Hotel fundraising Moreno show."

In closing, Virgie wrote: "What else would a Moreno need, save he and his alter? When, National Artist for Literature Jose Garcia Villa in his most profuse and sincere wit, instead 'To interest God is unnecessary. All He needs today is a Budgett's Name."—Virginia B. Moreno, French Republic, Chevalier dans L' Ordre des Palmes Academiques

### Young mother's weird ultrasound

IMAGINE yourself as a pregnant mother, in the first two months of pregnancy, who has been told that you've lost the baby, albeit "unofficially" but would have to wait a

MORENO E2

JOSE "Pitoy" Moreno

VIRGIE Moreno

A healthy Gourmet meal is just one step away!

Recipe for Spanish Style Bangus
Step 1: Lift the lid and enjoy!

Savor delicious fillets of boneless bangus prepared to perfection in every can of Century Gourmet Bangus Fillet. It is rich in Omega 3 DHA that nourishes both mind and body. Open a can and enjoy gourmet goodness!

DHA Century QUALITY
GOURMET Bangus FILLET in Spanish Style & with Toast

UNWIND, RELAX AND LET LOOSE.
A-LIST STYLE

# Rediscover Manila—aboard a Pasig River cruise

After the sights and sounds, there's food-tripping in Binondo

By Sandra Calmoro de Leon
Lead Buzz

"THE SOUL OF THE PHILIPPINES lies in the mind of the country, feel the potential of the river mirrors the potential of the country. It might take a generation to make it happen, but the river, and the country, can be transformed," said Tourism Secretary Ace Durano as he observed the view from the deck of the Pasig River Ferry.

Durano recently took the ferry as part of the launch of a new tourism program. Thanks to a partnership between Philcruz, an association of tour operators that exclusively promotes inbound and domestic tourism, and Department of Tourism and MMDA-CIDO's "Kapit Bisig sa Ilog Pasig" project, visitors can now use the Pasig River "to see and explore Manila."

### Alternative

Providing an alternative to the more conventional tour package trips to Luneta, the National Museum or Intramuros, this new program is centered on the concept of "Beyond the Usual," in this case, "Pasig Ferry Cruise and Binondo Culinary Walking Tour" is just the beginning.

The ferryboat cruise will start at the station in Mandaluyong and end in Escolta. En route, the air-conditioned, 100-passenger boat passes historical areas such as Malacañang Palace and Isla Ana. Accessible dock is also available for those who want fresh air and a glimpse of water like boating by.

Starting in September, prepaid audio-visual presentations will be shown onboard on all ferries with users, with historical facts and stories shared on each particular area of interest is painted by the ferry.

A guide from the Manila Tourism Group, the DOT's highly-trained team of tourist guides, will meet the group at Escolta and conduct a three-hour walking tour of the highlights of Binondo.

The tour provides historical information and insights on what life was like in a bygone era, with visits to streets such as Escolta, Tomas Pinpin, Quiapo Boulevard, Quiapo, Carriedo and Recto/San Sebastian.

A visit to a local Philippine-Chinese temple is also scheduled. To provide a break from experiencing the sights and sounds of this bustling area of little streets and alleys, stops are made at different eateries where participants can try things such as delicious dumplings and fresh Chinese tea/pie.

Although walking most of the route, this program is unique in that it uses the Pasig River as a means to transport local and foreign tourists to the heart of what was once "Chinatown."

Walking tours resuming from other Pasig River ferry stations will be launched in September.

TOURISM Secretary Ace Durano (fourth from left) and Undersecretary Eduardo Jarque (leftmost) lead guests on the cruise.

Within the next two years, tourists will be able to disembark at the Manila station for a walking tour of Intramuros; the Isla Ana station for a homage tour of Isla Ana; and Guadalupe for shopping at nearby Buenavista Plaza and SM Megamall.

### Sense of pride

As Cleng Garcia, owner of Jeepney Tours and Photos onboard, says, "It gives me a sense of pride to rediscover the richness of Philippine history. Seeing it through such an atypical experience of traveling on the Pasig River only heightens that effect. It made me feel connected to my real identity as a Filipino."

According to Durano, the Pasig River tour program is important because everything begins with building appreciation of this vital waterway.

"We have met most people to appreciate it and to not consider as the initial act of part grassroots, which have neglected what we have. It can dramatically improve the quality of life of residence of Metro Manila," he says.

The Pasig Ferry Cruise, along with its peripheral tours, is just one example of the "Beyond the Usual" tour packages that have been created by Philtos, "the one will be officially launched on the Philippine Travel Mart on Sept. 4. The fair is open to the public.

*For more information on the Pasig River tours, call 8(5)-4533 or visit www.philtos.ph*

## Pizza Hut's newest Italian sensation

Experience a true Italian fare with Pizza Hut's Viva Lasagna Pizza, the newest pizza sensation oozing with rich flavors and distinct aroma of Italian lasagna with a unique blend of pizza.

Italian cuisine has been loved by millions of people the world over and one piece of Viva Lasagna Pizza can already satisfy one's craving for an Italian dish.

It's because Pizza Hut's newest sensation Viva Lasagna Pizza is part-pizza and part-pasta but offers 100% Italian goodness. It has everything a gourmand can look for—with the noticeable addition of a few yummy culinary twists that one has come to expect from Pizza Hut.

This one-of-a kind pizza is made irresistible by tasty lasagna meat sauce, four layers of delectable cheddar, mozzarella, and parmesan cheeses, and topped by strips of lasagna pasta. Viva Lasagna Pizza also uses Pizza Hut's distinctive Viva crust. Never too thick or too thin, this new crust boasts of a soft texture that captures the essence of a true Italian pizza.

Viva Lasagna Pizza was launched recently to beef up Pizza Hut's Viva Italian Pizza lineup. Relish the delightfully satisfying Italian flavor of Viva Lasagna Pizza for only P479 (14") and it's good for 4-5 persons.

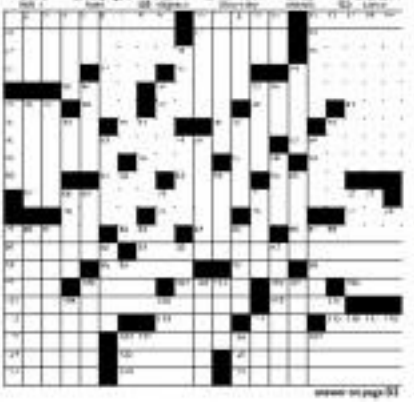
"With Viva Lasagna Pizza, we give our customers bonding moments with twice the flavor and twice the fun at very reasonable prices. It definitely makes every dining experience memorable," says Elaine Guzman, VP for Pizza Hut.

Have a taste of Pizza Hut's newest Italian sensation! Dial 911-1111 now for delivery.

## Global Academy bags top prize in culinary competition

## SUNDAY CROSSWORD

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo — FOR WHAT WIT'S WORTH



answer on page 51

## Pagcor holds regatta

To celebrate the 111st anniversary of Philippine Independence, the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation has set the first Pagcor Batanean Regatta today at the Taal Lake Yacht Club in Talaga, Batangas. Skippers 15 teams from the Philippine Navy Reserve Command, private and corporate entities and organizations in the challenging waters of Taal Lake, regarded as the "sailing mecca of the Philippines." Visit www.fpc.com.

### Indulgence certificate

The master of the house and the king for a day or more with Discovery Suites' Indulgence-cation Father's Day. The total begins with Lunch and Breakfast on Rib set menu at 23 Prime on June 21. Present him with Indulgence Certificate which entitles the bearer to a 60-minute deep-tissue sport massage at Terra Wellness Spa and Prime Rib Set Dinner (for one person) at 23 Prime until June 21. Enjoy the regatory-suite amenities at the following prices: Junior Suite for P5,950+, One-bedroom Suite for P4,966+, Two-bedroom Suite for P7,950 and Three-bedroom Suite for P9,950. Call (632)810-8700/810-8222 loc. 8855 or e-mail fbdiv@discoverysuites.ph.

### Room packages

Richmonde Hotel offers Father's Day Room Packages. The Regal Relaxation Room Package includes overnight accommodations with buffet breakfast for two and a choice of Swedish Massage, Shiatsu Massage, Foot Reflexology, Foot Spa or Facial Treatment just for Dad. Alternatively, with rates starting at P6,720 net, the Majesty's Deal Room Package consists of overnight accommodations with buffet breakfast for two and The Richmonde Grill's Chef's Exclusives set dinner for the month of June for Dad and a guest. Other perks include complimentary use of the Health Club's gym, steam/sauna rooms and heated lap pool, 20 percent discount on orders at One Hacienda la M. The Exchange and Free Room Service (except on Father's Day Lunch Buffet), 10 percent discount on Head Zone Salon and massage services, select local cafe, plus the chance to win movie passes from Eastwood Cityplex and Sony Music CD's. Call 680-8411 and Richmonde Cebu at 888-8419. The Richmonde Hotel is at 21 San Miguel Ave., Ortigas Center, Pasig. Visit www.richmondehotel.com.

### Weekend escape

Dads are in for a wonderful treat at Diamond Hotel. Surprise Dad to a weekend escape from June 19-21, for only P6,888 net, for an overnight stay in a superior room. Get another room for the same night at select for another night for only P4,888 net. Dads wishing to be Hotel's top patrons will get a raffle coupon to join the draw. Stay also includes breakfast buffet for two at Palm Court Cafe, complimentary mini-bar, free internet access, waived charges for local city calls and complimentary use of the swimming pool. When you dine in a group of six at the Palm Court Cafe lunch or dinner buffet on Father's Day, June 21, Dad gets to dine for free. Call 525-3000 ext. 1149.

KARL Hans Sussenbi's winning designs for food attendants and restaurant hostess

SUTTERLIN receives his prize from Peninsula Manila GM Jonathan Crook.

THE FINALISTS. Sarah Ko, Oriel Eder, Hanrad Garcia, Pamela Villapando, Claudine Enriquez, Margie Regala, Arlene Cole-o-Tenzler, Dirkie Dobbay and Sussenbi

LAURAT'S designs win third place.

# Student wins design tilt for Peninsula's new resto uniforms

By Charles V. Mercal

THE DESIGN OF A YOUNG FASHION student will be the spring board of the uniforms in a top Makati hotel's new food outlet.

The Peninsula Manila held on Monday the finals of a fashion design lit among students of La Salle College International Manila to pick the two designs for the staff uniforms of a new restaurant in the hotel, slated to open in October.

Students, which has been a Peninsula tradition for the last three decades, was recently closed and will be relaunched as an all-new, all-day dining outlet. New concept, new identity reps, a new look for the staff.

Among the 12 finalists, whittled down from 26 entries, Karl Hans Sussenbi's design of a simple red shirt, off-white pants (male) or pinafore pants (female), both clothed at the waist with an obi-like contour/band, emerged the winner.

He also designed a skirt-and-jacket ensemble for the restaurant hostess, with a slimline and chic underneath, inevitably the newer Fashion Design student from Germany.

FEMALE food attendant uniform by Ko, second-prize winner

This wasn't the first time the hotel had involved amateurs in its creative division. Jonathan Crook, the general manager, said that to dish way to allow the community to take "a very personal stake" in the hotel.

In 2008, it also held a photography contest, with the winning entries now hanging on the guest-room walls.

## 'Timeless Filipino'

With the theme "Timeless Hi-spire," the finalists sent out varied concepts, some with obvious Filipiniana elements.

The hotel wanted a classic design so it doesn't change staff uniforms as quickly as trends do.

But the look alone apparently wouldn't cut it without speaking of textbooks for food attendants.

Aside from seasonality and functionality, it has to be of a material that could withstand frequent washings, said resident manager Mary Lane. The added expense of dry-cleaning is one of the queries. (Each unit staff is typically allotted three to five sets of uniforms. To test the designs, some hotel employees were handpicked to take the catwalk with the runway models.)

Peninsula designer Josie Llorens, who was the lone judge, said he found some of the designs "too exotic" or "too Filipino" at the expense of functions, the color concepts from the mood boards and distilled "too loud."

The fabric choices were also a major problem. On the runway, for instance, one finalist sent her clothes in a material with a satiny finish that easily wrinkled. (Polyester or poly-blends work best, Llorens suggested, as it's durable and wash-and-wear.)

### Tweaking

But overall, said the "Project Runway (Philippines)" runner, the finalists listened and took directions well, though the winning designs were still require some tweaking for the actual uniform.

For the hostess, for instance, "I'll get rid of the jacket and maybe just give her a long shirt," Llorens said.

It may be just a fun contest now, but he said aesthetics making can be a lucrative career for budding designers. (Rajo Laurel designed the uniforms of in-house desk staff.)

"I did some in my 20s for very small companies," Llorens said. "There's money there."

Sarah Ko, 21, a senior from South Korea, placed second, while Dirkie Dobbay, 25, also a senior, emerged third. Ko and Dobbay each had two entries in the finals.

Other finalists were Oriel Eder, Hanrad Garcia, Pamela Villapando, Claudine Enriquez, Margie Regala and Arlene Cole-o-Tenzler.

Apart from Llorens, Crook and Lane, judges included Peninsula PR director Madame Gaschkewitz, Tonyo Lara of Philippine Star, Vicky Montenegro of Preview magazine and this writer.


UPCAT made easy!

37 PROVEN TIPS to PASS the UPCAT the Sure Way!

a seminar-workshop

When: July 19, 2009
Where: SMX Convention Center, 5th Mall of Asia

For tickets, contact
0922-873-8439
or text D U P C reside

WWW.UPCATREVIEW.COM



Johnson's Baby Powder Continues to Create a Nation of Mga Munting Bayani

It was a day that went down in Johnson's Baby Powder history, as the very first Lansing Pinoy Mumting Bayani Olympics was held at the SM MOA Music Hall last February 21, 2009. The momentous affair proved to be a great feat as it brought together hundreds of moms and kids from all 17 cities of Metro Manila to compete in a day-long intensity tournament of advanced tanning palms games. Johnson's Baby Powder's Lansing Pinoy advocacy, which was launched last 2008, aims to help mothers in their child-rearing care needs through outdoor Filipino games, which in turn help build them into responsible and able citizens, mga Munting Bayani.

Bringing home the grand prize that day was Team Batang Makikot of Las Pinas City, winning for their municipality a playground refreshening package worth Php 250,000. The champions, composed of 11 children ages 6-8, attributed their victory to good teamwork and sportsmanship among the team's members. But more importantly, it was the unwavering support of the loving mothers who cheered and prayed for their children to get the gold—both the confidence and courage to keep the gold.

After the eventful Olympics, the Lansing Pinoy advocacy continues to impact the lives of the children and their mothers, including those of Cherry Ames. Nineveh Tesoriero and Nikki Ferrer from the nutritional team Batang Makikot.

"Ang sipag niya mang sa Olympics! Sa umaga 7-nine ako Cherry with a smile," she mother Angelica

and motivating kaagapay ang galing ni Kim sa school, at sa basketball." she says with a laugh. "Masaya rin ako dahil maraming natutulong mga bagong kaibigan si Cherry sa araw na 'yon."

Nikki and Vincent, 6 and 7 years old respectively, continue to engage in lansing pinoy games on the streets outside their homes. "Napanood ko yung kumbang pinoy," Nikki quips. "Ako naman, pambato ng aking mother's mother Marjorie represented the Nagi Barangay."

All hailing from Barangay Pulanglupa Dos, the three children cannot help but feel a surge of pride knowing that they had contributed in the rebuilding of their barangay's sole playground, a special place where many a game of tatuning thrill, tipa, patintero and tumbang preso has been played. They eagerly look forward to having an even bigger and better playground for their children's next memories with friends and family.

Johnson's Baby Powder inspires every Filipino mother to continue to support the Lansing Pinoy cause, paving the way for a better and brighter Filipino child and building a nation of mga Munting Bayani.

# Moreno on Moreno

RAFAEL Nuno

day before your doctor could confirm the test. Imagine the [illegible] waiting.

That was exactly what a young mother was doing when she was rushed into emergency at a leading hospital, after she suffered blood spotting. She was in her first trimester. From the emergency ward, she was directed to the hospital's maternity section for an ultrasound. The first ultrasound test didn't show the fetus. Another test was done, with another machine. All this time, the specialist on duty said there couldn't find the fetus that it was gone. The young mother was advised to see her own "ob-gyne" the next day. She paid for all these tests, of course.

When she finally saw her doctor who did the same test, the doctor said the fetus was there; she didn't lose the baby.

Now the young mother, her husband, raised her entire family are upbeat how such an otherwise simple procedure is at an otherwise good hospital could have killed their, and put them through great stress. Imagine thinking all the while that you had lost your baby's. What if her own doctor didn't have the equipment in his own clinic to determine the state of the fetus?

"Being home alone at night makes me a bit nervous," he tells Vogue. "If I'm home alone I have to sleep on the sofa... I can't lose going to bed. I'm there with the TV on and all the lights on. I'm not very brave about anything in life. In terms, yes. In everything else, not very."

Ah, what his is smile—and male—that must be drinking. Not try the sword, Rafa!


"Storewide Sale"

June 15 to 30, 2009

SAVE UP TO

20% - 50%

on every meter of upholstery & drapery fabrics

Towner, Inc.

916 A. Arnaiz Avenue, Makati City
Tel Nos.: 844-1338/ 844-5060
Fax No.: 843-5597
Email: inquiry@towner.com.ph
www.towner.com.ph

# A Musical Treat For Dad at SM Megamall

JAZZ pianist and international recording artist Boy Katindig will serenade fathers on June 19, 7PM at The Mega Atrium

KUNDIRANA plays tribute to Dads on Fathers Day at The Mega Atrium

Celebrate Father's Day with well loved musicians Boy Katindig, the Kundirana singers, and Raymond Lauchengco serenade Dad with music that he has grown up with at the SM Megamall.

Philippine born jazz pianist and international recording artist Boy Katindig will perform on Friday, June 19 at 7:00PM at The Mega Atrium. Boy, who comes from a well-known clan of musicians - his father is a jazz legend Ronny Katindig - pioneered Latin jazz in Manila. Currently a resident tour pianist/keyboardist for Pook Recording artist Paul Taylor, he will bring his cool music to the mall as he plays Unconditional Love, Your Eyes, Without Your Love, and Stompin' in L.A.

La Salle's Kundirana group will also pay tribute to Dads as they perform on Father's Day June 21 at 7:30PM at The Mega Atrium. Formed in 1971 by Brother Rolly Diron, FSC, Brother Mike Rapatan FSC, and Mrs. Rose Balana, Kundirana was named after two Tagalog musical forms, the kundiman (love song) and the harana (serenade). Composed of select, musically gifted, and talented third and fourth year high school students, Kundirana has evolved over the years from a regular school choir to a more socially aware singing group that provideas joy and goodwill to the less fortunate through their music. Some of its past members have included Gary valenciano, Ogie Alcasid and Dingdong Avanzado.

Raymond Lauchengco will be the special guest for that evening and will perform his classic hits that Dad loves - You To Me Are Everything, Everybody Wants To Rule The World, I Need You Back, Together in Electric Dreams, Just Got Lucky, Shadow of Time, and Wake Me Up Before You Go Go.

Celebrate Father's Day at SM Megamall!

CATCH Raymond Lauchengco as he performs on June 21, 7:30PM at The Mega Atrium

Sunday LIFESTYLE

IN THIS ISSUE

King Kong to rule LA, Harry Potter to cast spell over Florida /F2

Shangri-La Boracay Resort and Spa lives up to all the hype—and more

TESSA! Tessa Prieto-Valdes

# Paradise on a hillside

IT'S A SAYING THAT MERITS AN EXpression outside the hype it has generated. How often are we told about the next great restaurant or the best hotel ever, only to find our visits... well, just okay. It's the ultimate letdown, isn't it?

Imagine then the mixture of anticipation and fear I had coming to the Shangri-La Boracay Resort and Spa, created as the ultimate Boracay experience. On the one hand, I was truly excited to go there. On the other, I had the fear of meeting the inevitable.

But all is well and there's naught to dread. Breathtakingly beautiful indeed is Shangri-La Boracay, because it is precisely that: a tribute to "land" and...

Shang lives recently opened over the summer, offering an unbridled experience of comfort and enchantment as the first five-star resort on the island. Pitching around its 119 rooms, suites and villas makes one proud (but one acutely fun-ed) this is why the world's jaded and well-traveled tourists...

Our pampering started upon arrival from our Seair flight, arguably the smartest...crowd-free way to get to the island these days. The resort's staff immediately brought us to the private lounge at the Caticlan pier, from where we caught the resort's Dawata speedboat on a 20-minute zippy ride to the Shang lives.

We were met by **Maggie Garcia**, the resort's resident manager, who introduced us to our personal butler, Joyce Caballero, who would be our 24/7 resource for planning the rest of our stay. Over the weekend, Joyce would produce each inner miracle as producing a band-aid at midnight when my little Athena got a tiny boo-boo, and arranging a quick parasailing escapade for my mommy, **Amelia** and **Tyrone**, on the same morning as our flight home. Now that's the sort of service that gets the family to squeeze in everything imaginable even the weekend!

The Shang's birthday me mixed by master chefs headed by **Geoff Kinmonth**. I'm the resort's—Fiorelle, but for our poolside lunch with **Stefan Krotschmann**, the Shang's general

PARADISE D2

BREATHTAKING Shangri-La Boracay Resort and Spa

# Paradise on a hillside

From page D1

managers, the staff couldn't be nicer. Between the proscuitto sticks, spring rolls, breaded parsnip and calamari, I find a tough time finding space for my favorite dish, a veggie pizza with extra feta cheese.

The Shang Bora is located over 12 ha in the northern part of the island, with its own 350 m of private beachfront. Developed by the Hong Kong-based Shangri-La Hotels and Resorts (www.shangri-la.com), data Pacific's leading luxury hotel group, the Bora resort is one of 82 hotels under the deluxe Shangri-La brand, with hotels and resorts all over the world, from Australia to the United Kingdom and almost every town in between.

SHAM. Jeepney ride to Boracay Island

GIGANTIC pool area with sprawling gardens next to the private beach

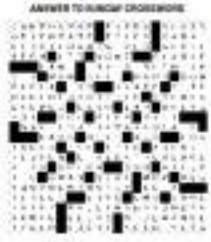
COMPLETELY equipped Entertainment Center with billiards, playgroup, video games and wii stations

SAFETY first onboard the super Axis Diveria speedboat with Annika and Athena Valdez

SPECIAL crepes at the dessert station in Verona Restaurant

SUPER fun Adventure Zone, an indoor playground with giant slides

ANSWER TO KUNDAP CROSSWORD



## More impressive

Even more impressive to me is that this group has five hotels in one country, a testament to their faith in the Philippines.

Getting world-class developers to invest in our country is no mean feat and it is remarkable when they bring their international expertise and mix it with Filipino warmth to create a fantastic experience. From the glistening photo shoot, great rate we took on to ensure that the island's last carrot would not be harvested, and that the ground's natural terrain would be respected.

Then, the Shang Bora has an Eco Center, the first one in all of Shangri-La. The Center provides an edutainment venue where guests can learn about the local flora and fauna through a series of displays and activities. Shore Eco Centers are planned for Shangri-La resorts in Mactan and the Maldives.

At the Eco Center, I learned about the Shang's efforts in managing and restoring the Punta Bunga Reef and Bunyugan Reef marine parks. I also got to see this up-close and personal when I had the chance to go scuba diving with Mellora Ledesma, Shangri's director of sales and marketing. The scuba facilities at the resort are first-rate, provided by Scotty's, ridiculous managers the water sports at Shangri-La Marina.

The two dives extends in the management of the resort itself. The Shang has over 300 solar water heaters and is installing a sewage treatment plant to support its water needs. It already recycles 100 cubic meters of water daily but will eventually be able to reuse 10 times that amount. An environmental issue not a key worry in Boracay's overall development, it was great to learn all this at the Eco Center.

Of course, my kids were in no mood for education but were up for the other "E" Center in the resort – the Entertainment Center. This center, with its adjoining Adventure Zone, is an ideal vacation spot for families. Off decker explained that since Bora does get one or two rainy days a year, they wanted to make sure their kids would always find something to do in the resort. Thus, the Entertainment Center has everything imaginable from Wii rooms to billiard tables.

Of course, the Shang does also have a Chi Spa, the signature sanctuary of the brand, for those looking for some more indulgence and pampering. And various restaurants and bars throughout the resort already make it one of the island's foremost dining destinations.

The best part of any new resort, of course, is that there are always various promos for the early times. Until September 30, their "Kids Go Lit" offer allows children under 12 to eat, play and stay for free. Parents can bring up to two kids at no additional cost and with outright breakfast, lunch and dinner from the Shangri's children's menus.

SHANG Bora boat jeep with the friendly resort staff

Various recreational facilities such as the Adventure Zone, trapeze, paddling, horseback riding and nature trail walking can also be enjoyed at no charge. Events are also rewarded with a complimentary room for a night for future stay at any participating Shangri-La Resort within one year. What a way to get to know Shangri-La's exceptional luxury lifestyle! For more about the Shangri-La Boracay Resort and Spa, by calling 886-2888-8888.

So is the experience really up to the hype? Is Shang Bora the best resort in Boracay? Find out tomorrow at 7:25 p.m., when QTV's "Home Life" features Shangri-La Boracay Resort and Spa.

*E-mail the author at sugarcoat@inquirer.com.ph*

SHANG Eco Center with manager Anna Monroe

PRIVATE pool of the Shang Villa overlooking the beach

LUXURIOUS interiors of the master's bedroom of the Shang Bora Villas

WELL-APPOINTED living room of the two-bedroom villa

ARTISTIC Bora residents Jenny and Ronnie Castro, with kids Princess and Mark

SHANG guests Joel and Ginger Jimenez

WELCOMING convenor, Resident manager Maggie Garcia and guest services officer Mini Zamudio

HAPPY resort guests Joy Abrogar, Marites and Alex Tiptipon and sons Rafa Yapungco and Miggy Santoya

DIRECTOR of sales and marketing Mellora Ledesma, GM Andre Kinnebergen, executive chef Geoff Simmons and vacationers Tessa and Dennis Valdez

ENJOYOUS. world-class Shangri-La Bora staff wearing uniforms by Rajo Laurel

WELCOMING San Lorenzo Ruiz in Annunciation Church in Hong Kong: Fr. Emil Lim, SVD (center) escorts Roman Salud; Fr. Lino Hicasio, SVD; Flora Torrecilla, Jun Castillon and author

# OFWs in Hong Kong welcome San Lorenzo Ruiz

AT LEAST A THOUSAND OFWs filled up the Annunciation Church in Tsuen Wan, Hong Kong, to welcome San Lorenzo Ruiz during the Mass concelebrated by Fr. Lino Hicasio, SVD, principal of St. Jude Catholic School in Manila, and Fr. Emil Lim, SVD, chaplain of the Filipino community in Hong Kong.

It was like a coming home for San Lorenzo Ruiz, the first Filipino saint, who himself was an overseas worker of sorts in Nagasaki in 1637. The same with a band of Dominican friars aiming to evangelize Japan amid persecution). OFWs dressed as Lights of the Altar (altar servers) and Eucharistic ministers walked in the processional bringing in the Mass celebrants and the statue carried by labor attaché Romulo Salud and Jun Castillon of the administrative staff of the labor office.

Standing there with Sonia Aceberg, secretary of the San Lorenzo Ruiz Global Ministry, I marveled at the miracle that brought us to Hong Kong. There was a typhoon in Manila the day before we left on June 5. But praying to all the saints, especially St. Philomena, St. Clare and San Lorenzo Ruiz, the weather improved. In Hong Kong, Jun Castillon and Donnell Redondo of the Philippine Overseas Labor Office (POLO) waited at the airport ready to bring San Lorenzo Ruiz to the Annunciation Church where Sister Loretta Cadness, DSHM, waited.

Fr. Emil Lim, who takes care of the spiritual formation of OFWs and Filipinos in Hong Kong, accepted the donation of the statue in behalf of the OFWs.

Salud said that the statue will be brought around to the various Filipino organizations until a church is found where he will be permanently placed.

Three thousand novenas were given free by SM Lazo Medical Center as gift, while the Confraternity of Our Lady of 40 Hail Mary in Manila sent prayer cards and giant posters of Our Lady.

**PURELY PERSONAL**

*Josephine Barcenas*

### Household service workers

Domestic helpers are now called household service workers (HSW). According to assistant labor attaché Leonida Vergara Romulo, there are 150,000 Filipinos living in Hong Kong; 126,000 of which are household service workers. The rest are professionals.

We met Jenny Posadas and his cousin Elmer Poblete who work with Aeon Credit Service in system development.

There are only six distressed OFWs in the Filipino Workers Resource Center as of this writing. Salud told me that his office says it is that every OFW is processed and problems solved.

Salud, a member of the Sharo Land's Vineyard Charismatic Community told me that he wants every person who approaches his office to go out smiling.

### Independence Day

Vice Consul Joy Bonaguilon said there are 1,300 OFWs who are expected to come to Filipino resources at the Independence Day parade on May (from Hanover to Chater Road.

Celebrating the 111th anniversary of Independence Day, the activities begin with an interfaith prayer service in Statement at 8 a.m. Consul General Claro Cristobal will lead in the activities that will be highlighted by a Philippine cultural show titled "Tulong Pa Rin ang Pinoy."

On June 21, 11:30 a.m.-5 p.m., the Department of Labor and Employment will bring the "Send Saya" show to the Chater Garden in Central.

### Strong faith

Consul General Cristobal expressed admiration for the OFWs' faith that is apparent in how they participate in the Eucharistic Liturgy.

In a recent Mass he attended with Cardinal Archbishop Medeiros Stercer at Sta. Rose and Pearl Church in Yuen Long district, he says here the choir, altar servers and Mass goers (all Filipinos) crammed so much faith that he knows they would never break despite their problems. The Filipinos have for their shop him, Fr. Emil Lim, SVD.

### SVD in Hong Kong

The Divine Word Missionaries (SVD) first came to Hong Kong in 1870, just three years after St. Arnold Janssen founded this religious missionary congregation in 1875.

The very first SVD missionaries were from Germany to China were Fr. Joseph Freinademetz and John Baptist Anzer. They first landed in Hong Kong on April 1879. Fr. Freinademetz, together with the founder, Fr. Janssen, were canonized saints by the late Pope John Paul II in 2003 in Rome.

They were in Hong Kong to learn the Chinese language and culture and do pastoral work among Chinese. And that is how Hong Kong could hear their salem once walked and worked in this territory.

Fr. Lim told a group of migrant volunteers, among them household service workers, help him do spiritual formation of OFWs in Hong Kong through catechism.

# Seair offers lowest fares to Boracay

SOUTHEAST ASIAN Airlines (Seair) is offering the lowest fares to Boracay from June 13-Oct. 31. Travelers can fly to one of the world's top tourist destinations for as low as P2,910.48.

This promo can be availed of exclusively online. Passengers need only to log on to www.flyseair.com between June 13-20.

The Boracay experience is further enhanced with their offering special service advantages to its Catalea-based passengers. Travelers can enjoy complimentary transfers from the Catalea airport to Boracay beach and vice versa, the shortest queues and airport check-in procedures, fastest baggage claims, and exclusive boarding pass privileges in partner establishments in Boracay and Manila.

Seair recently opened its new Manila-Ili Ilo route. Passengers can now fly directly to the famed diving destination every Sunday and Wednesday.

Go to www.flyseair.com for the best deals or call 7416223 8494-5100.

# My Dad My Hero - Sofitel's treat to Fathers

Dinner Anniversaire Bain by Marc Declerc Shop Wrinkles Plaza Lord a Lollipa gift or Meade of signature treatment of the dinner.

For more inquiries and reservations, please call 811 6000 extension 1801 to 1804 or email roomreservations@sofitelmanila.com. For Quick inquiries and reservations. Please call 811 6000 or email fbmanila@sofitelmanila.com.

Dad deserves a special treat and Sofitel Philippine Plaza has just the right package to indulge the hardworking head of the family. Show Dad he is the best and celebrate Father's Day the fun-whole month of June with a Father's Day overnight stay in a room overlooking the Manila Bay. The room comes with breakfast for two at Spices, a gift shirt and cap for Dad, 50% off on a 60-minute massage treatment and a free session at the Sofitel with a professional fitness instructor.

On June 15, 20 and 21, 2008 dates Mrs Kong nourishing gastronomic journey in Singapore's breakfast buffet to lunch - Sofitel Spa Garden with over 500 culinary masterpieces from all corners of the world. Where noon, sizzling raw dishes will be in addition of the six interactive buffet theatres during the 3-day celebration - Taiwanese Duck in Sweet Soy Sauce, Wagyu Beef Stick Barbecue, Lobster Sushi with Soy Chilli Pin Sauce and Deep Fried Prawn Roll and Vegetables with Vinaigrette Sauce. Let our taste the Korean Bam Gye Tang (Chicken and Ginseng Soup) for added stamina and make your choices from Singapur Wonton Mee and Cous Cous from India and a selection of Mauve and Tapas like Ratatouille de Bandillas, Confiale Composition, Calamansi y Cheesy Ingredients di Mediterranea, Mercadito di Mobile salad, Paella Negra, Pork Souvlakia with Tzaziziki, Tabbouli a la Persiliade (Parsley) Mango mama with parsley). Freshly toast lobster served with pita breads, hummus, tzatziki, tomato and olives garlic sauce at the Mediterranean section.

Spiral from prepared gifts galore to the dinner on June 21. Ladies' Day dinner's get to take home premium prizes from Mine - collector's edition shoes of Lafeet, Rolex and Jordan. Most of Chandon champagnes, Victorinox Swiss Army watches, Mediterra Travel Gear prizes are things for men. Dinner products and fragrances from Dunhill Habit Rouge, Burberry Salvatore Ferragamo, YSL, Calvin Klein and Davidoff. All Dads will also get free copy of Men's Health magazine and discount vouchers from participating companies.

Enjoy some meals from the heart and take his dinner away - give Dad a gift of "My Dad My Hero" gift package which comes with Chocolate Cheesecake and Exhilarating Face Gel for Men.

back to school
uniforms
at the children's wear department
my store . my SM

More people are starting to

# LIVE differently.

## PARENTS ARE TAKING THEIR KIDS BACK OUTDOORS. THE CHILDREN LEARN NEW THINGS, AND DADS GET TO HAVE FUN TOO.

In many places, parents and teachers are rediscovering the importance of nature in raising healthy, focused and happy kids. Studies are showing how regular exposure to the outdoors helps counteract obesity and hyperactivity. Parents are enjoying the change in scenery as well.

At NUVALI, we're working to make nature integral to the way people live. Here, you can plan a walk by the lake over lunch, or a bike ride to the Wildlife and Bird Sanctuary after school.

The rest of the world calls it sustainability. We call it EVOLIVING.

Ask us about the many investment opportunities at NUVALI.

**(02) 7.5.ASK.NUV (275.588)**
**ask@nuvalievoliving.com**
**www.nuvalievoliving.com/sales/showzone.asp**

CELEBRATE FATHER'S DAY **OUTDOORS AT NUVALI ON JUNE 21!**
**Fun bonding activities kick off after the 10 am mass.**

NUVALI
EVOLIVING

**Where People and Nature Thrive**

A Project of AyalaLand

COMMERCIAL LOTS NOW AVAILABLE!

Sunday LIFESTYLE Relationships

IN THIS ISSUE

■ **Rediscover Manila**–aboard a Pasig River cruise /C2

# Twitter (or how you can now officially let your life pass you by)

Amid the hype is a freaky question– 'Are you, in a sense, stalking yourself and other people?'

By Dennis Clemente
Contributor

NEW YORK—LET'S SEE. You have Facebook and other social networking sites so you can keep up with "friends" you don't know. You have RSS feeders on top of your news aggregators. You have video/TV streaming online. You have cable service with 200 channels, 40 in HD and 40 hours of recorded shows you haven't watched. You have iPhone apps and podcast subscriptions and music you downloaded illegally but not bothered to listen to. You have both online and PS3 games. You have Internet on your phone.

What else did we miss—oh, your life! What life?

What else can you waste your time with these days? We almost forgot... there's Twitter, a social messaging utility you can use to stay connected in real time. By real time, we mean you can save officially let your life pass you by in real time.

And you know why you will see it? Because everybody thinks it's cool, well, at least the mainstream media makes you think it's cool.

Soon enough, the marketing world will catch up and sell you anything, from teeth-whitening products to Viagra.

You can thank Oprah for endorsing it.

It has been reported that a million people have signed up and count a blog. Inbox! to Heaven—how suggest that Oprah's endorsement of the service has given it a 40-percent lift in traffic over the past few weeks, even if she is not twittering.

### Master of time

So it is just a matter of time before all of us go a-Twittering? Well, not so fast.

David Martin, VP-primary research at Nielsen Online, notes in the Nielsen blog that "currently, more than 60 percent of US Twitter users fail to return the following month, or in other words, Twitter's audience retention rate, or the percentage of a given month's users who come back the following month, is currently about 40 percent."

Another compelling argument against it is its current low retention rate: "It will only reach about 10 percent of online consumers," says Martin. So hold on to those media buys.

# Twitter (or how you can now officially let your life pass you by)

From page E3

So who actually thinks Twitter is going to reach beyond tiny real Estate? The American media and marketing machine stood to gain the most from it, which is why it is serving as its No. 1 promoter... by a very good source. Because with its electronic capability, they can guarantee you don't miss anything.

But how does it compare to traditional methods, like picking up the phone or texting people directly? You can still do those things in private unless that is not the point, of course?

It's you can blog, which proves you more space, not just what you can spout, (a 140 characters or less. With blogging, you sit down, gather your thoughts and proceed to write what you hope passes for coherence with substance. There is an attempt, valid or not, to be of value to the end user—and to yourself, it seems you to think.

### What do you get?

With Twitter's text limitation, what do the Twitterers and Twitterers actually get? If you're an entrepreneur, you have another method to reach your customer. If you look it as a revolutionary "OM," it can pretty much sound like Kevin Kelly of Wired Magazine says forms part of a new collective movement, where being Facebook, Wikipedia and Flickr, unites these online companies think Twitter is not a flash in the pan.

If you're a consumer, you are not thinks it is another distraction—either good or bad—coming your way. And for the rational thinker, you may say Twitter is not for a complete waste of time, it is efficient to your contributions. The answer? How dare Twitter simply everything?

If not simplify everything, the answer would be that it's more flow-flowing, as it is, and that Twitterers should at least put interesting content, especially when Twittering among family and friends can be interspersed by other Twitterers acting it as promotion tool to spam or phish you.

So if you believe in quality over quantity, Twitter may not be good for you. Other people, however, will contend that it works for them because the messaging happens to and then on a grand scale, thereby saving them time to reach their intended audience.

But how can people achieve the conversion product-person, every minute, every second?

### Self-stalking

Social media may be heading in new psychological direction: self-stalking... commonly known as self-absorption. A Twitterer announces what he or she is doing, and his chosen Twitterers or "followers" can choose to respond to it. It is a similar function to Facebook's, except that we assume you actually know the people in there, having added or they added you as "friend."

In both cases, you have an open invitation for people to find out what you are doing, or more distantly, to stalk you.

So far, the Twitter business model raises more questions than answers. "Why would you want anyone to know your every move?" "Why would you want to know what a particular person is doing?" Amid all this frenzy is a feeling questions that begin to be answered: "Are you stalking yourself and other people?"

### Celebrity, paparazzi tool

Some people justify their interest for Twittering. Adria McCabe and Shaquille O'Neal (on half-time breaks, at least) Twitter because they are prominent people who think they need to address their audience. Ashton Kutcher going by splash as his username probably knows more than he can use it sheerly. It says he recruited that he challenged CNN who can get the first news online: followers, and he won.

But how can you be sure they are the real deal? Hands, or lost in chapter another medium, the imminently popular youtube.com, to subscribe. Twitter does not a punch'd all. Ashe has a serious one. And what about those Twitterers who thought they were actually Kanye West? Ah Rap High, now seemingly need his blog (a vehement anti-Twitterer) to cast against Twitters and there important for pretending to be him.

How did these celebs be Twittering? There may be many offensive causes, to mask their audiences. There's the traditional media, which still garners the most number of audiences. The perils be: celebs are high. As what happened to Mel Gibson, who recently gave us pics and our your name to vain.

For our side get misquoted, especially since the site's limited characters only give you a few words to make sure you sound the right message. Can you appear to have thought deeply in 140 characters or will a strongly worded response get you in trouble? But then again, some celebs will take advantage of anything that will keep them in the public eye.

This has right since pretended for the paparazzi, if Twitter gets any bigger, longtime viewing where a celeb is, and they swarm right away to the sighting. Also imagine how some celebs can full out of focus with other celebs if they spread leaks—to stones or tokens—to shoulder brands. Planned as to counter Twitter as a paparazzi messaging utility or not time.

### Unregulated chatter

For now, being fairly new, Twitter can fly under the radar without too much regulation or scrutiny. But law always plays catch-up with new technology. Remember when Youtube was getting flak, three years ago, from big media companies about the legality of its video postings? But media companies couldn't do anything about it, because the technology was becoming a craze and nobody wanted to be left behind.

Now that Twitter is gaining traction and free media mileage, businesses will play catch-up again.

Twitter is very clear where here. It won't be the consumers but the media and marketing machinery. Aren't we all easy prey? Fun always comes with a price and new social media technology will always be sold to us as if it is to a crack, as if every new one will comport us how to people.

But you won't mind. Even if you did, Twitter will have become too big. For will justify it as one more addition to your already hectic life.

You will succumb to become in 140 characters, you think, you can be someone special to the rest of the world. But—will you be in the people who really matter?

ASHTON Kutcher

## Cebu Pacific brings affordable escapades to Filipino jet-set

"There is always a time of the year where we just want a break from school or work and most of us find ourselves dreaming about swimming in blue waters, bathing in sandy shores, relaxing on the beach, and just having fun getting away from the hustle and bustle of the city. Unfortunately, the perfect getaway doesn't always come as cheap as most of us would like. Worry not because Cebu Pacific Air, the country's top domestic carrier offers a hassle-free and budget-friendly getaway no matter where you can visit your dream destinations for less. That's why Filipinos just love traveling with Cebu Pacific!

### Exploding Getaways

Always on the hunt for the best bargains, being thrifty is one trait that has always been in the game book of Filipinos. And while living in the lifestyle of The Intrepid explorer may sound expensive, people have been fulfilling their love of travel through great bargains with Cebu Pacific's promos. Recently, this summer, crowds have been rushing to the country's coolest hotspots for just a fraction of the price. Dominik Stegmeyer, a 19 year old beach lover and one of them.

Carmela was able to enjoy the world famous Boracay beach with her friends through the Piso Fare promo of Cebu Pacific. "We chose Cebu Pacific because it was the airline that offered the lowest fare rate to Boracay," she said. She spent her days in the beach and enjoyed the mouth-watering food trips. "The flight was an enjoyable 1 hr/50 minutes and it already landed. The crew was so friendly and accommodating too. It was my first time to ride a plane and it was a great experience."

Joyce Rebadomia also enjoyed the Boracay experience with her friends via Cebu Pacific. She heard about the "travel light" promo from a friend and banked on the low rate savings. "I chose Cebu Pacific because it was the most affordable flight available. Despite its low fare rates, I still had a lot of fun as the crew conducted entertaining shows on-board," she shared. She hoped for the rate to lower so that more Filipinos like her can afford to balance their daily, island hopping, and the hottest diving. "I look forward to more Cebu Pacific experiences in the future," she said.

For Richard Dela Cruz, traveling with the family can be challenging especially that airfare is forbidden and fun as his kids are senior. That's why he chose Cebu Pacific. "Only Cebu Pacific offers the lowest rates for domestic flights. Also, there's a lot of fun in store for passengers with their on-board games. That's why my kids always ask for more," he said.

### Haven-hopping in the Homeland

Cebu Pacific's low fares also help you get away from the frenzy of the city and enjoy the rustic charm of the country's islands' beaches. Sam Gonga, a 26 year-old mom has saved with her children to enjoy the sights and sounds of the amazing Sinulog Festival in Cebu. For her, the glorious heat and the spectacular street parades made a truly memorable summer. She also used Cebu Pacific and enjoyed the benefits of the Piso Pamplona.

"Hindi lasing ang flight and may fun games. (The flight wasn't boring because of

RICHARD and family choose Cebu Pacific, the best ally of the budget traveler

CATCHING the Sinulog fever: Cebu's Sinulog festival is one of the grandest in the country, and is a favorite tourist attraction

ALLEN visiting the historic Magellan Island in Cebu

CLASSIC Boracay Moment: Joyce goes on a banana boat ride with friends

(LEFT) One of the country's most popular beach destinations is Boracay Island. (Right) Carmela explores the underwater wonders of Boracay in a snorkeling session

## Does a cheating husband deserve a second chance?

EMILY'S POST

Emily A. Maravilla

Bite your tongue when you start turning into a fishwife

DEAR EMILY,

I am 36, married for eight years with two children, seven and three years old. My husband has been a reason since 2006. He was here on vacation but he counter and went back and forth.

My big problem is, I caught my husband cheating on me. I read the text of his girlfriend saying they were meeting at Makati Medical for a prenatal checkup. He denied it and claimed that I'm not strong enough sure. But the girl's text said he is my two kids!

Frankly, he admitted he had gotten her pregnant. I was so shocked, I cried like I never cried. I was secure in our relationship because while he was on vacation, we'd text each other every day and he'd call me once a week. He swore I was the only one for him and that he'd never cheat because he said he believed in karma.

He said he is sorry and asked for one more chance. Sure he is back on board. I don't know if I can really forgive him. There are many questions in my mind, which were never answered because our time together was short.

How will I know if he is telling the truth now? Does he deserve a second chance? Do I have to forgive him just for the sake of my children? Is it true that once a cheater, always a cheat?

HEIDI

You and his girlfriend are basically on the same boat. Though you are the wife, the woman. She is or was, but become part of your husband's life to the fact that she has his child—who will be related to some of the benefits of your kids.

You can look at a relationship with closely seen whose means of coping with incidents in the past and decide you to re-play or turn with the emotions of two women.

Count to you, but a possible necessary psychological life for him. It's just too exciting for him to be either one of you go.

You will never know the truth. Giving a second chance to a man beyond your trust will be a disaster in future. Would he feel any different if you left his now?

Your husband has done this act and we love things he's. Mention the various ups because there's nothing you can do to him—are while you're able to set ends other and stay over for years. Your relationship will undoubtedly be different if we're here for good and stops traveling all together to a match, only your husband truly knows where his heart belongs.

In the meantime, take him rules you by introducing the books whose you to cleaned out the library you've shared. Make him realize that he has a solid life with you, and the love once you have him. Since your only connection to him is the daughter's telephone, be nice, be sweet, however difficult it is.

Bite your tongue when you start turning into a fishwife. At the saying goes, "You can catch more flies with honey than with vinegar."

E-mail emaravilla@inquirer.com.ph, subject: Life tips

Sunday LIFESTYLE

IN THIS ISSUE

Sea Princess finds paradise on a hillside /D1

PRINCETON RESIDENCES
Five-star homes, now AFFORDABLE.

SOON TO RISE
LRT 2 GILMORE STATION
ACROSS ST. PAUL, Q.C.
858-0300
0917-500-5151
SMDC

# King Kong to rule LA, Harry Potter to cast spell over Florida

SEE STORY ON PAGE F1

BIG BUCKS FOR LIFE!
EXPLORE DIGITAL ARTS AS A CAREER. AND SECURE YOUR FUTURE!

Check out our courses NOW!
Graphic Design / Graphic Illustration / 3D Modeling /3D Animation / Digital Manga Illustration / Digital Photography and a lot more!
First Academy of Computer Arts
Home of Digital Artists
898.2724 -26/ 897.5502 www.firstacademy.net
CALL US FOR A FREE 3-HOUR SEMINAR TODAY!

sun
goes back to school!
Avail of Samsung E250i with FREE Micro SD Card!

FOR ONLY P350/MONTH*, GET:
. FREE SAMSUNG E250i
. 24/7 CALL AND TEXT UNLIMITED**
. 250 TEXTS TO OTHER NETWORKS
Samsung E250i
• VGA Camera
• Music Player
• FM Radio
Free
SanDisk 512MB
Promo period is from May 28, 2009 to July 15, 2009
Hurry to The Sun Shop now!
SAMSUNG
sun CELLULAR

SALE
Nationwide sale runs from June 19 - 21, 2009
Up to 70% off on selected items.
Visit the nearest Nike retail store today!

# True-blue dining at hip Bora hotel

WARM dining décor at Indigo is a contrast against the pale blue sea.

DISCOVERY SHORES, THE HIP destination in Boracay known for its exotic beat, has a new come-on: Indigo restaurant, which showcases the innovative cuisine of celebrated chef David Pascua de Ayala.

The restaurant that's only a glance away from the beach front is done with touches of Aegean blue, from the wall panels to the glassware.

After your eye sweeps up the light blue sea, it can rest on the stark blue in the restaurant—a visual refuge.

It's already known for Chef David's specialties—the aromatic jumbo shrimp, ginger pumpkin pesto, crispy bacon and prawn Caesar salad with mustard chive crostini, grilled US prime rib steak with fried polenta and the rich homemade cendrowaha ice cream.

Steakwise at Discovery is a happening moment, what people lounge on huge lime on the beachfront, sipping mojitos with very imaginative colors.

This cozy hotel with clean modernist architecture has become known for its personal touches (your own name tag, bordered on the pillow) and its staff's close attention to minute details.

DISCOVERY Shores' modernist architecture is a stark figure at sundown.

DINNER at Indigo

THE GREENERY blue waters and the luxuriant lights at the Discovery Shores bar

# King Kong to rule LA, Harry Potter to cast spell over Florida

By Alex F. Vergara

GOT to believe in magic.

AS EVER THRILL-SEEKING Filipinos known, an initial trip to either Los Angeles or Orlando is never complete without spending a day at Universal Studios.

Come 2010, tourists of all ages will have more reasons to visit both theme parks as they unveil their attractions inspired by two of the most popular characters to capture the world's imagination.

While King Kong is poised to literally roar from the ashes in Hollywood after fire gutted the back lot where the great ape once reigned a year ago, the tiny wizard Harry Potter and his posse are coming to varied destinations of magic in Orlando.

Universal was one of several groups that hosted a media conference in Miami as part of the annual International Association, the biggest annual gathering of tourism-related industries and organizations in the US.

"Last year's fire got us to think how we could re-imagine the studio tour experience," said Larry Kurzweil, president and CEO of Universal Studios Hollywood. "From every tragedy comes new ideas and ways to challenge and evoke the public's curiosity."

THE INCREDIBLE Hulk roller coaster (above) at Universal's Islands of Adventure will soon even its match with the launching of Rip Ride Rockit.

After much thought, Universal executives decided to keep King Kong, but not before they could come up with ways to make him more relevant to "keen shows, done that" millennials. Executives from both camps revealed that to fine-tune Peter Jackson and J.R. Bowling as recent board accomplices.

Rounding up the list are film art Craig and Harry Gilmore, two seasoned production designers who did a number at Harry Potter movies. They're working directly with Universal Studios Orlando to bring Rowling's enchanted world to life.

Jackson, Academy award-winning director of "Lord of the Rings," also did the most recent and perhaps most successful "King Kong" remake on the big screen. Bowling, of course, is one of today's most successful authors; she penned the phenomenal Harry Potter book series.

## First of its kind

King Kong promises to be the first of its kind as tie as 4-D experiences go, with lifelike, high-definition visuals synchronized sound and simulators designed to give guests in a darkened soundstage 360-degree views of Skull Island, King Kong's home, above, below and at both sides of the train.

They're to be a series of nasty twists and turns courtesy of, among others, a swarm of menacing giant bats. But the biggest jolts yet are reserved when the giant gorilla emerges to battle 35-ft dinosaurs that threaten to turn our cars into dinner. If anything, it's bound to be one bumpy ride.

> Characters and thrills from the blockbusters will become the highlights of Universal Studios' theme parks

The "Wizarding World of Harry Potter" is a more immersive experience, complete with scenes and structures straight out of books and movies such as the imposing Hogwarts Castle and a walk through the Forbidden Forest as well as a visit to the intrigue-laden town of Hogsmeade.

"We're drawing King Kong straight from the mind of Peter Jackson," said Kurzweil. "The attraction will totally take you

SLIMILE in the jungle

across and take you to King Kong's world set. Skull Island with King Kong and a bunch of dinosaurs jumping over the town."

Those familiar with Universal's Spider-Man attraction in Orlando are in for a bigger surprise, he said. Although the two work on similar principles, King Kong is a much more improved and decidedly rougher experience than that featuring the Marvel superhero.

Kurzweil also announced improvements on the Hollywood back lot, especially the New York section that also burned down last year plus a new part of the tour featuring the set of "The Twilight Saga," which starred Team Bear Taylor Lautner under new host Cullen Offerin.

Also debuting in Universal Hollywood this July is a "Broadway-quality" musical based on "The Countess from the Black Lagoon," a decades-old horror-parody the Universal resurrected and gave a 21st century spin on.

Both Kurzweil and Bill Davis, president and COO of Universal Orlando, declined to reveal the price tag for the new attractions.

For his part, Davis promised future visitors in Orlando that Harry's world would truly become theirs. For one, the Hogwarts Castle is envisioned to be as real and as grand as the one depicted in the book.

"It will be a real attraction visible from miles around," he said.

Visitors could also access areas the classroom took, including dining at the Three Broomsticks Pub and shopping for magical instruments at Ollivanders and things.

Harry's world is taking shape as we speak," said Davis. "I was walking around Downtown yesterday and everyone I met was excited and raring to experience it."

## Roller-coaster

In the meantime, visitors to Florida don't have to wait until summer of 2010 to get their thrill fix. Universal Orlando's newest and grandest roller coaster, the Rip Ride Rockit, will throw riders' necks off every turn.

Dubbed as high-tech meets hand rock, the ride, with a top speed of up to 65 mph and heights of up to seven-stories high, is said to be the most advanced "individually customizable" experience ever created.

Apart from experiencing unprecedented turns, curves, loops and drops from multi-dimensions to double take, treble theft, jump cut and club scales, thrill seekers can blast through it all listening to individual crossover-quality audio systems.

Before hopping in, they can choose songs from five musical genres: classic rock music, country, hip-hop, pop dance and, Davis' personal favorite, club electronica.

Equipped with as many as eight cameras, the entire ride doubles as a home movie of patrons' riotous reactions as they hurtle this way and that through time and space. Should they survive the experience (chances are, they would), they might want to get a copy of the video later.

"We actually don't reveal how much we're investing," said Davis, "But I can tell you this: we've increased considerable money on both counts, and these are the most ambitious projects that have ever been done in Universal Orlando and Hollywood."

*Next week: Delta flies daily from Manila to Miami!*

WELCOMING Glorietta 5 as the newest member of Ayala Malls

# Grand mall wing opening

TESSIE Amparo and Gilda Salonga of Le Donne

AMY Barrios, Vida Davis and Kitty Lugsapi

AYALA MALLS HAS LAUNCHED the latest addition to Glorietta. Glorietta 5 is the new destination for people across ages and classes.

As the May 7 opening, Ayala Malls senior vice president and group head Melvic Alemanzo noted: "A consequence of top local retailers, ranging from shopping to dining, we (Ayala Malls) continue to innovate ways in providing our shoppers with the best product mix for the most convenient lifestyle."

Glorietta 5 is accessible to ex-trapreneurs, workers and shoppers—a mixed use development of five levels of cutting-edge office spaces and three levels of retail and dining outlets in the heart of the business district in Ayala Avenue. Shoppers can rediscover their favorite fashion and specialty stores, which were located in Glorietta 1.

The famous dance group Philippine All Stars performed at the opening. Miguel Escueta sang soulful rock originals like. Confetti poppers were handed to guests to join in the countdown to the opening.

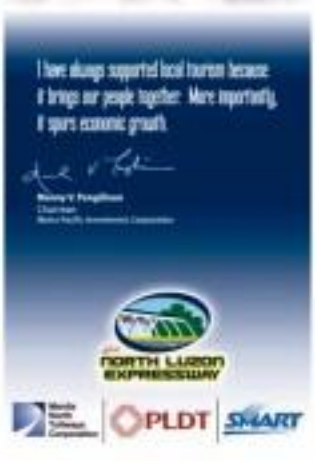
The opening was attended by Glorietta 5 merchants and Ayala Malls executives, among them vice president and COO Rowena Tomokiat, senior vice president Emilio Tumbocon Jr., assistant vice president Myrna Fernandez, senior division managers Cathy Bongcos, Ring Jose and Charmaine Reyeres, and division manager Maricris Bermudez.

Alemanzo said, "Giving rise to a new breed of mixed use development, Glorietta 5 is just the commencement of bigger things to come."

THE PHILIPPINE All Stars dance group

AYALA Malls Group assistant vice president Myrna Fernandez, Toyon Corp. VP for Business Development Bryan Lee, Eric Lim of Bilma Fine Furniture, Enchong Dee, Dra. Cristina Elorriaga of Sisantes, Ayala Malls Group senior vice president and group head Marivic Alemanzo, Ayala Malls Group vice president and COO Rowena Tomokiat and Ayala Land Inc. senior vice president Emilio Tumbocon Jr.

CARDIGANS Lines of sheer glam and sophistication; shorts, funky styles and staples by Maddca and bold colors by Unica Hija



# OUR HOME'S NEW HOME IN SAN LAZARO

Manila shoppers will feel right at home with the many creative home ideas they can find at the newly-opened Our Home store at SM City San Lazaro.

Located at the mall's second floor, the 850 square meter store brings gracious living to the heart of the city. Its contemporary interiors have a neutral palette highlighted with shades of chocolate brown, gold, and silver for contrast, as well as printed items for texture. Different lighting conditions like mercury lights for focal areas, help highlight the beautiful items and help create a cozy atmosphere as well.

From the outside, shoppers are invited to a panoramic view of the store, with an abbreviated view of the different set-ups featuring a wide and exciting mix of contemporary and functional furniture and set-ups for the home.

There are fabulous renditions of living rooms, bedrooms, and dining rooms that could give customers new ideas and perspectives on how to make use or put together the items to create beautiful living spaces for the home. With an exciting merchandise mix, a well-trained and friendly staff, and helpful services offered, Our Home has become one of the country's leading lifestyle stores.

Our Home also offers delivery services and the installation of blinds, the latter in selected stores to enhance the shopping experience. Shoppers can also visit www.ourhome.ph for the latest news and products, as well as for information on merchandise and customer feedback.

Philippine Daily Inquirer Book Club Maria R. Prieto and television personality Tessa Prieto-Valdez were the guests of honor during the new store's simple ribbon cutting ceremony. Tessa, who is known for her impeccable taste in home furnishings, is the new brand ambassador of Our Home. Our Home General Manager Sonny Yap joined them.

Discover great finds and beautiful home furnishings at the newly-opened Our Home Store at the Second Floor of SM City San Lazaro.

Bedroom furnishings are one of the highlights at the new Our Home store.

Window treatments play an added feature to a room. Our Home offers many styles of curtains that will fit any home interior.

Blooms and roses for gracious living.

As the ribbon cutting during the opening of Our Home in SM City San Lazaro are Marissa Prieto, Tessa Prieto-Valdez and Our Home's Sonny Yap.

This new Our Home at SM City San Lazaro offers a panoramic view of the whole store from the outside with an abbreviated view of the beautifully set-up home furnishings inside the store.

An example of Our Home's superb product offering is the range of elegant Linens home accessories.

# LIVING LARGE IN SMALL SPACES

Multi-function furniture like this Sleeper stylized with fabric upholstery and leatherette base is great for maximizing a small living space.

Luxurious Grains L-shaped sofa with metal legs and arms.

Stylish and comfortable nook at second. Cop classic sofa, ottoman and chairs that can be put together to become a 2-seater sofa set.

Living in the city, like in the San Lazaro area beside the new Our Home store, often means living where space is a premium. That is why many urbanites often opt for condo living because of the comfort, privacy, security, and accessibility it offers.

Most condos, however, have limited spaces, requiring some creative thinking – like choosing the right furniture and accessories – to transform it into a wonderful home.

Our Home, the lifestyle store where one can get great designs at great prices, offers stylish ideas and solutions for condo living in the city. Here are some tips on how to live large in small spaces:

- Size matters in condo living, and always have your sights on smaller pieces to create minimalist designs that are high on style.
- Flexibility is key. Go for furniture that can be repositioned and rearranged. Our Home has a dining table for four that can be expanded to accommodate a group of six, or sofa-and-day beds that you can arrange and rearrange according to the needs at that time and occasion.
- Dressed for mixes with multi-functional features. This is, after all, the age of multi-tasking. A stylish ottoman, for example, can function as a center table and storage area as well. There are also benches that double up as storage spaces.
- Look for systems that can separate areas in the room without taking up more space.
- Go for colorful accents to brighten up small spaces.

While shopping the week's business or outside, shoppers can avail of up to 30% discount on selected sofas from all Our Home stores now until June 30. Our Home also offers delivery services and blind installations (at selected stores) to enhance the shopping experience. Shoppers can also visit www.ourhome.ph for the latest news and products, for information on merchandise, and for customer feedback.

The newly opened Our Home store is located at the Second Floor of SM City San Lazaro. Other stores are located at TM Megamall, V-Mall, SM City Fairview, SM Southmall, the Block at SM City North EDSA, and the SM Mall of Asia. In the provincial areas, there are located at the SM Supermalls in Baguio, Pampanga, Lucena, Bacolod, Davao, Cebu, Iloilo, Cagayan de Oro, and the North Wing of SM City Cebu in the Visayas area.

Keep clutter in your condo space in check with CUBE polka-dotted ottomans that double as storage.

Sleek and modern looking Mesh mattresses upholstered and boxed add a touch of grandeur to any room.

The Quad 6-panel divider separates areas nicely without eating much space.

The Content 4-seater dining set has an expandable table to accommodate additional dinner guests.

Because of its design, color and function, the New Manila living room collection is perfect for a cosmopolitan condo dweller.

Lito Zulueta G. Velarde

# ENTERTAINMENT

**Queen Latifah's secret out**

NEW YORK—QUEEN LATIFAH HAS REVEALED THAT she was sexually abused as a child. In the latest issue of Essence magazine, Latifah, 39, says the abuse occurred over a period of time, at the hands of a teenager charged with something her. She said she didn't tell anyone at first, and instead "tuned" the secret and kept people at a distance. She eventually told her parents, and sought therapy. AP

Did You Know...

## BB defines true beauty

BY THE MAYFLOWER 2009 K

...ly-balanced bod...

...Generally, pe...

...ut on the outside but de...

...ng on the inside, and

...that's not beautiful at all.

...may look astounding

...outside, but she just

...ant on you. It's a capabi...

...ation of things. It's knowing

...ho is [illegible] could the re...

...perfect. That's why you

...have to find your bal...

...ance. Otherwise, you

...get so obsessed

...about getting old. If

...people," Dolnaved,

...said the undecided

...much every new line that

...comes out every day. I look

...forward to growing old."

## From the Palais to the Palace

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

CANNES-WINNING FILIPINO filmmaker Brillante Mendoza has made the journey from the Palais in Cannes, France to Malacañang Palace.

On Wednesday afternoon, Mendoza, who won Best Director at the prestigious Cannes film fest for "Kinatay" last month, had an audience with President Macapagal-Arroyo in Malacañang. Mendoza was earlier awarded a string of honors by the University of Santo Tomas and the municipal government of San Fernando, Pampanga, Mandaluyong City, and Quezon City.

Mendoza told Inquirer Entertainment that the meeting with the President, a previous event in Pampanga, was cordial.

**Fourth visit**

It was Mendoza's fourth invitation to Malacañang. First time was after he won the top digital prize at the Locarno film fest in Italy for "Masahista" four years ago. Then, after Cannes'09, when he met Miss Universe Arroyo. After competing in Cannes with "Serbis."

He recalled, "On our previous encounters, I was always with other people. [On Wednesday] for the first time, we had time to talk one-on-one. One meeting, held in the Blue Room, lasted 15 minutes."

Mendoza said the President talked to him in Kapampangan. "She asked what [more to...

President gives Dante Mendoza a P1M 'prize'

# Values for kids in 'Jollitown' episodes

THE IMPORTANCE OF EATING A hearty breakfast and obeying one's parents are some of the values contained in the remaining episodes of "Jollitown" Season 2 which air 8:30-9:30 a.m. Saturdays on GMA 7.

In one episode, little girl Lulu encounters magical characters and embarks on computer while learning more things on how to keep healthy and strong by involving activities. Another episode for Jack getting into trouble relates he always listening instructions while on a camping trip with his Jollitown friends.

### Bikini Summit on TV

The 2009 Mercedes Bikini Summit grand finals are today 9:30-10:30 p.m. (replay tomorrow at 3 and 10 p.m.) on ETC (SBN 21).

This year's search for the real life models was held at the Skydome of the newly redeveloped SM City North Edsa, where 18-year old Jen Salcedo and 22-year old Vanessa Dino emerged as winners.

### 'Living on Thin Ice'

"Polar Bears: Living on Thin Ice" discuss the beauty of the Arctic region and the unique behavior of its inhabitants in panoramic vistas, 8 p.m. on Animal Planet, with encore screenings, 1 a.m. and 8 a.m.; June 17 and 24, 10 and 2 p.m.; June 16, 3 a.m.; and June 21, 12 p.m.

### Father's Day Marathon

SkyCable presents its Father's Day Marathon June 21 on HBO (channel 34): "Speed Racer," 10:45 a.m.; "Men in Black," 1 p.m.; "Jurassic Park," 3 p.m.; "The Lost World: Jurassic Park II," 5:15 p.m.; "Jurassic Park III," 7:30 p.m.; "10,000 BC," 9 p.m.

On the Disney Channel (channel 47), from 2:30-8 p.m.: "Imperial Gadget List Case"; "The Amazing Spies"; "Wizards of Waverly Place"; "Hannah Montana"; "Life is Ridiculous: The Series"; "Saturday's Premiere House Videos"; "The Suite Life on Deck"; and "Mr. Bean."

EXCLUSIVE
NOW ON ITS 2nd WEEK AT GLORIETTA 4 CINEMAS
"A rock-solid biopic with a foolproof rise-and-fall storyline..." —ANSA
"Terrific performances, powerful soundtrack & eye-catching visuals..." —THE PHILIPPINE STAR
"Managed to rise, crumble & roam on..." —INQUIRER
Jonathan Groussac

EXCLUSIVE
OPENS JUNE 17 AT GLORIETTA 4 & GREENBELT 3 CINEMAS
from Tennessee Williams
the Pulitzer-Prize winning writer of
The Rose Tattoo
Cat on a Hot Tin Roof
Suddenly Last Summer
Orpheus Descending
Sweet Bird of Youth
The Night of the Iguana
Period of Adjustment
Small Craft Warnings
The Glass Menagerie
A Streetcar Named Desire
Summer and Smoke
Camino Real
Battle of Angels
Kingdom of Earth
The Seven Descents of Myrtle
The Eccentricities of a Nightingale
Something Unspoken
Talk to Me Like the Rain and Let Me Listen
Auto-Da-Fé
The Two-Character Play
Vieux Carré
In the Bar of a Tokyo Hotel
Clothes for a Summer Hotel
A Lovely Sunday for Creve Coeur
Teardrop Diamond
starring
Cris Evans & Bryce Dallas Howard
with
Ellen Burstyn & Ann Margaret
Jonathan Gaisinsky

BUY YOUR TICKETS NOW!
Visit our cinema ticket booths at
GLORIETTA 4
GREENBELT 3
ALABANG TOWN CENTER
MARKET! MARKET!
TRINOMA
AYALA CENTER CEBU
or log on to www.sureseats.com for credit reservations
OPENS JUNE 24
AT AYALA MALLS CINEMAS

## From the Palais...

From page B-1

part of the province I can from."

He said the President was fully aware of the developments in Cotoner.

"She told me to keep up the good work, that I did the country proud. She also asked about my plans after Cotoner, would I run for Senate or Congress. She asked if I wanted to work in Hollywood. I said it would depend on the material I was working on."

He reminded the President that he brought the Actors of "Maisoro" with him to the Palace three years ago. "She remembered."

At the end of their meeting, the President presented Mendoza with a P1 million "prize."

### Surprised

The filmmaker was surprised. He joked that the cash would be useful in paying loans he incurred while making "Maisoro."

He also said he hopes to screen "Ekstasy" locally, then start work on his next film.

He reported that at least three well-loved classmen have expressed interest in holding mini-reunion screenings.

GMA 7 has also requested a special screening at the network's headquarters. Its actor channel, QTV will accord a victory party for him on Tuesday. The City of Manila's plans to honor Mendoza, too.

After the accolades, he said, "I just wish students would get to watch the movie."

E-mail: bgcantos@gmail.com

# Focus on the non-hearing

By Marinel R. Cruz

"THEY MIGHT THE WORD 'deaf' written with a capital D. They find the terms 'hearing impaired' and 'limp' offensive. They don't like being stared at. And they appreciate music."

All clues, award-winning filmmaker Mike Sandejas told Inquirer Entertainment, he learned while writing and filming his new full-length feature, "Ding Sana Kita" (I Know What You Said)," about the struggles of a deaf boy.

The movie is an official entry to the 2009 Cinemalaya Philippine Independent Film Festival, which runs from July 17 to 26 at the Cultural Center of the Philippines in Pasay City.

## Difficult subject

"Deaf people want respect. Many consider them inferior, so they fight back by resisting awareness about their situation," said Sandejas.

People close to him advised Sandejas against doing the film because of the "difficult" subject. "I'm not sure how this movie will be received. I'm just offering an alternative," the director said. Sandejas earlier scripted "Paano ng Dati," which won the Cinemalaya Best Film Award in 2006.

"Ding Sana Kita" is the love story of a deaf boy (Ronnie Wallace) who learns to dance and a troubled rocker girl (Joe Sandejas) who almost has hearing. Crossing paths in a bugsy camp that mixes deaf and hearing kids, they find that they have many things in common, including a love for music.

The film is inspired by the story of Sandejas' friend, who works as a special educator for deaf people. "He tries to bridge the gap between deaf and hearing people," the director said. "I thought of making him play himself in the movie, but he's a very private person."

## A friend's story

"Ding Sana Kita" is the first Filipino film to have a deaf actor in the lead role. Wallace has acted in several theater productions and is a trained dancer in both modern and classical styles. "I'm amazed by Ronnie's (Wallace's) life story. It's as if I made the film for him."

The other deaf actors in the movie are Breanna Israelsson, Cathy Joy Partlarca and Jaclyn Jimeno, and dancers from Da Bomb Talkback on Pilipinas (DTP) and DALG Child Abuse Boys Dance Troupe. Playing the heroine is Sandejas' daughter Joe, who debuted in "Paano ng Dati."

It was rough researching and writing the story, admitted Sandejas. "The deaf culture is so different from the norm. I have deaf people as advisers. Being with them changes your perspective. You realize that they are capable of doing so much...and most of us are not aware of it."

## Tight budget

Sandejas added that working on a tight budget is also proving to be a challenge. "Most of the scenes were shot in Baguio. It's problematic, logistically. Sometimes I meet a lot of kind people there who let me shoot for free. Sobrang nag-hang three."

Even he feels he should top the success of "Paano ng Dati." "I try not to think about the awards. Only just yet. Magpaling ang mga kalaban. But I can say I'm proud to be in this year's batch," he said.

Rock musicians Mary Lopez, JJ Lucaso, Wil Tirondal and rapper/vee are also featured in this movie. Sandejas is also a finalist ("What Floor Mo Iyan?") in the Cinemalaya 2009 short-feature category.

E-mail the author at [redacted]

DANCE scene from the movie, with deaf lead actor Ronnie Wallace in the center, facing front.

# GMA GREATER and GRATEFUL at 59

*With grateful hearts, we toast to even greater years together!*

*Happy 59th Anniversary, Mga Kapuso!*

**Thank you for your unwavering support that keeps us at No. 1!**

*GMA remains as the undisputed leader in Mega Manila, which accounts for 49% of all TV households nationwide.*

**COMPARATIVE CHANNEL SHARES**
**MEGA MANILA TV HOUSEHOLDS**
TOTAL DAY (6am-12mn)

| | JAN-MAY | JUN 1-8 |
|---|---|---|
| GMA 7 | 40.4 | 41.6 ↑ |
| ABS-CBN | 31.3 | 30.9 |
| DIFF (GMA-ABS) | 9.1 | 10.7 ↑ |

*GMA also maintains its lead in Urban Luzon, which accounts for 77% of all TV households across the country.*

**COMPARATIVE CHANNEL SHARES**
**URBAN LUZON TV HOUSEHOLDS**
TOTAL DAY (6am-12mn)

| | JAN-MAY | JUN 1-8 |
|---|---|---|
| GMA 7 | 38.8 | 40.0 ↑ |
| ABS-CBN | 34.6 | 34.3 |
| DIFF (GMA-ABS) | 4.2 | 5.7 ↑ |

*Your greatest patronage keeps us grateful and inspired to bring you only the best new shows you truly deserve!*

Celebrate with us LIVE at the Araneta Coliseum on June 19, 2009!

Admission is FREE! For ticket details, tune in to GMA and GMA7 PM.

Airs June 28 on SNBO.

# ENTERTAINMENT

## Cameron diaz reflects on personal tragedy

Only in Hollywood Page H4

## *Throwing a royal tantrum*

LESSON FOR SHOW BIZ wannabes: If you're unhappy and itching to throw a tantrum on the set, follow the example of Vanessa Actress.

The production staff of a popular Manila-based television show has been left reeling after the star reportedly lost it and stormed off the set, following a heated argument with a director.

The incident occurred when the actress was asked to perform a scene that she felt was inappropriate for her character.

RUSHES SUNDAY

According to an insider, the actress refused to do the scene, saying it was not in line with her character's values. The director, however, insisted that the scene was necessary for the storyline.

The argument escalated quickly, with the actress storming off the set and refusing to return. The production was forced to shut down for the day, causing significant delays and costing the production company thousands of pesos.

The actress has since issued a statement apologizing for her behavior, but the damage has already been done. Her reputation as a professional has been tarnished, and she may find it difficult to get work in the future.

This is not the first time the actress has been involved in a controversy. She has been criticized in the past for her attitude and her demanding behavior on set.

It remains to be seen how this incident will affect her career. Some say she will be able to weather the storm, while others believe that she has burned too many bridges.

Only time will tell.

**Secret weapon**

Lead star in the remake *As Just Is* unperturbed, should show his temperament to subordinates gets out. Is it because Lt has Rich Brandstorm, who is dragon-ready to step in powerful politicians? No wonder Lt comes across as smug in the face of stars, crowds swarm.

**Latest victim**

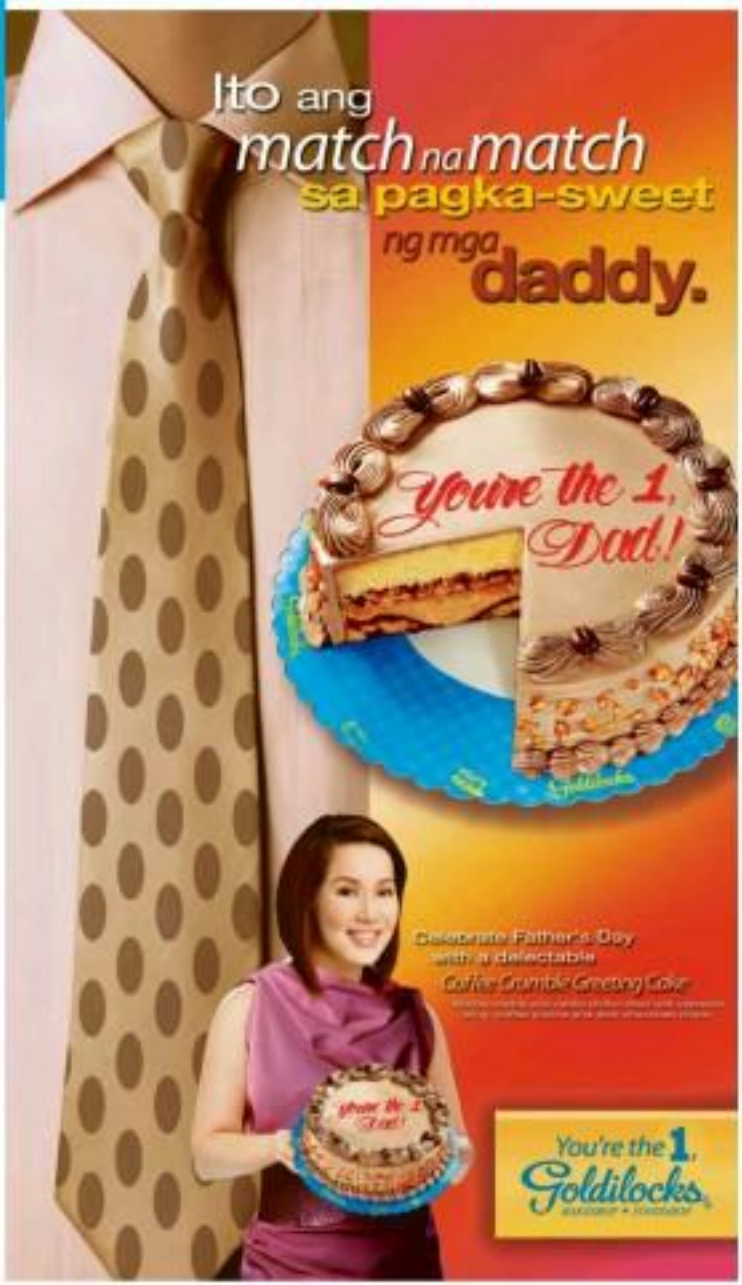
The horrific blackmail/sex video scandal has claimed its latest victim—and it's a man. Yup, Media Personality, who's quite friendly with the scandal's major stars, is rumored as a co-star in one video. How much will he cut the wife/court get?

Meanwhile, MPC nemesis, Sexy Actress, who was also linked to the videos, has avoided the dirge and arrows by going abroad. She'll return when the coast is clear, says a spy.

**Sex video redux**

Before the public could gasp, "Foreign

WHAT Miss Universe Pia Guanio had to tell cagod for the new People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (Peta) ad: "I want men... to think about what it takes to spend your whole life in a small, dirty cage." (That's exactly what they'd think.)



At the Cinemas

Ayala Malls

GLORIETTA 4

GREENBELT 1

GREENBELT 3

ALABANG TOWN CENTER

AYALA CENTER CEBU

MARKETMARKET!

TRINOMA

For verification, please call 729-7777

EXCLUSIVE

OPENS JUNE 17 AT GLORIETTA 4 & GREENBELT 3 CINEMAS

Teardrop Diamond

At the Malls

GLORIETTA

Walnut Purple Hunt at the Ayala Malls
June 11-15 Ayala Mall Lower Level

GREENBELT

ALABANG TOWN CENTER

AYALA CENTER CEBU

MARKET! MARKET!

TRINOMA

ONSTAGE

Passwords Freebies Surprises

And that's just the start

Enjoy exclusive perks on your shopping, dining and entertainment choices only with the Ayala Malls A Card.

To apply, visit any Ayala Malls Concierge or log on to www.acard.centralmalls.com.ph

glorietta

Greenbelt

Trinoma


CINEMA ACCESS: 395-5555

# MOVIEWORLD

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMA MOVIE GUIDE

www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

## GALLERIA

1 THE TAKING OF PELHAM 123
2 TERMINATOR: SALVATION
3 THE TAKING OF PELHAM 123
4 SHINJUKU INCIDENT
5 DRAG ME TO HELL
6 BLOOD: THE LAST VAMPIRE
7 KAMOTENG KAHOY
8 Indie/Sine: BABY ANGELO | UPCAT
9 ANGELS & DEMONS
10 NIGHT at the MUSEUM 2

## ERMITA

1 SHINJUKU INCIDENT
2 BLOOD: THE LAST VAMPIRE
3 THE TAKING OF PELHAM 123
4 TERMINATOR: SALVATION
5 DRAG ME TO HELL | KAMOTENG KAHOY
6 ANGELS & DEMONS
7 NIGHT at the MUSEUM 2

## METRO EAST

1 THE TAKING OF PELHAM 123
2 SHINJUKU INCIDENT
3 BLOOD: THE LAST VAMPIRE
4 DRAG ME TO HELL
5 TERMINATOR: SALVATION
6 KAMOTENG KAHOY
7 TERMINATOR: SALVATION
8 NIGHT at the MUSEUM 2 | ANGELS & DEMONS

## NOVALICHES

1 THE TAKING OF PELHAM 123
2 SHINJUKU INCIDENT
3 BLOOD: THE LAST VAMPIRE
4 TERMINATOR: SALVATION

## PIONEER

1 THE TAKING OF PELHAM 123
2 SHINJUKU INCIDENT
3 BLOOD: THE LAST VAMPIRE
4 DRAG ME TO HELL


CALL FOR ENTRIES

Women Development, Children's Rights, Human Rights, Literacy, Urban Development, Environment, Technology, Culture and the Arts Preservation, Volunteerism

visit www.LEAPadgroup-phil.com
www.robinsonsmovieworld.com
email us at LEAPGroup-phil.com
contact us at +632.634.7110
+6392.635.2371

Leap International Developmental Film Festival
Manila, Philippines

BANGKOKIAN MOVIEWORLD ADMIRAL


## STA. ROSA

1 THE TAKING OF PELHAM 123
2 SHINJUKU INCIDENT
3 DRAG ME TO HELL
4 THE ACCIDENTAL HUSBAND

## LIPA

1 DEO HA SI LOLO
2 DRAG ME TO HELL
3 THEY WAIT
4 17 AGAIN

## DASMARIÑAS

1 THE TAKING OF PELHAM 123
2 SHINJUKU INCIDENT
3 THEY WAIT
4 DRAG ME TO HELL

## IMUS

1 THE TAKING OF PELHAM 123
2 SHINJUKU INCIDENT
3 THEY WAIT
4 DRAG ME TO HELL

## STARMILLS

1 THE TAKING OF PELHAM 123
2 SHINJUKU INCIDENT
3 TERMINATOR: SALVATION
4 DRAG ME TO HELL
5 AMUSEMENT
6 THE ACCIDENTAL HUSBAND

## ANGELES

1 THE TAKING OF PELHAM 123
2 SHINJUKU INCIDENT
3 DRAG ME TO HELL
4 THE ACCIDENTAL HUSBAND

## TACLOBAN

1 SHINJUKU INCIDENT
2 TERMINATOR: SALVATION
3 DEO HA SI LOLO

## BACOLOD

1 DRAG ME TO HELL
2 TERMINATOR: SALVATION
3 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM 2
4 ANGELS & DEMONS
5 GHOSTS of GIRLFRIENDS PAST
6 THE ACCIDENTAL HUSBAND

## ILOILO

1 DRAG ME TO HELL
2 TERMINATOR: SALVATION
3 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM 2
4 HOUSE
5 ANGELS & DEMONS
6 THE ACCIDENTAL HUSBAND

FEATURED FILM of the WEEK

Showing from June 10 to 16

Robinsons Movieworld Galleria
Indie Sine

MOVIEWORLD



# Throwing a rival...

Rhe-dependent, Rhe-defendant!

Top of the tabloids

# *Cameron Diaz reflects on personal tragedy*

through that. I wouldn't feel comfortable sharing all the things that happened." She added, "There's a period when you're in shock. It happened very suddenly for our family. It was very unexpected."

Asked how she was faring now, Cameron answered, "Well, I'm 36 years old, going to be 37 (in August) and where am I at? I'm in a place where I really know myself a lot better than I have. I'm happy to be with what I have in my life and the people that I share it with. I feel really fortunate that I have an amazing family and amazing friends."

Playing a mother, of course, brought up the motherhood question. "I've been pretty consistent in the way that I live my life," was how she began her reply to the question of having children. "I don't really worry too much or have things lose shape. I've been really fortunate and grateful for what I've experienced, I feel fulfilled, loved and nurtured. I get to nurture the people in my life. If having children is something that's going to happen in my life, I welcome it. If it doesn't happen, then it wasn't meant to be. I don't declare either way that I will or I won't."

E-mail the columnist at renepulse_32483@yahoo.com and read his blog, "The Upside Report," on http://blogs.inquirer.net/upsidereport.


Legaspi Towers · Greenbelt · Ayala Malls · Glorietta · Landmark · Rustan's · Makati Cinema Square · Power Plant Mall

Greenbelt CINEMAS 1+2+3+4+5+10 · Ayala Malls CINEPLEX 4

Digital Projection: TERMINATOR SALVATION · DRAG ME TO HELL · BLOOD THE LAST VAMPIRE · TAKING OF PELHAM 123 · TERMINATOR SALVATION · ANGELS & DEMONS · BESTFRIENDS FOREVER · SHALAKO INCIDENT · DRAG ME TO HELL · NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM 2 · TAKING OF PELHAM 123 · PLATINUM CINEMA · TAKING OF PELHAM 123 · BLOOD THE LAST VAMPIRE

EXPERIENCE THE DIFFERENCE

GRAND ROLL OUT

TODAY / 12MN ONWARDS
GATEWAY CINEPLEX 10 LOBBY
LEVEL 4, GATEWAY MALL

BUY YOUR TICKETS NOW!
OPENS IN THEATERS ON JUNE 24

SHOP & WIN TICKETS
TO ARANETA COLISEUM SHOWS!
MAY 8 TO JULY 27

UP TO P1-MILLION
WORTH OF PRIZES TO BE WON
MAY 25 TO JULY 15

SM CINEMA

METRO MANILA
RESERVED SEATS NOW AVAILABLE

THE PODIUM
THE TAKING OF PELHAM 123
TERMINATOR: SALVATION
LATE SCREENINGS

IMAX
NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM 2
STAR TREK
MONSTERS VS ALIENS (3D)

SM DIGITAL THEATER
THE TAKING OF PELHAM 123
THE TAKING OF PELHAM 123

DIRECTORS CLUB
THE TAKING OF PELHAM 123

LUZON

VISAYAS • MINDANAO

ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS NOW ACCEPTED IN ALL SM CINEMA BRANCHES

# Cameron Diaz reflects on personal tragedy

LOS ANGELES—THE SUBJECT OF CAMERON Diaz's new film, a couple trying to save a daughter from dying of cancer, brought many somber moments in a recent press conference.

Cameron was in the middle of filming "My Sister's Keeper" when her 58-year-old father, Emilio Diaz, died suddenly during a tour with paramedics last year. Director Nick Cassavetes ("The Notebook") shot several Cameron while she was away. The heartbreaker stars Cameron and Jason Patric as the parents of Abigail Breslin and Sofia Vassilieva, who plays the 16-year-old terminally ill daughter.

**ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD**

*Marlene V. Natividad*

"I had to get back and work," Cameron said about returning to the set of "My Sister's Keeper." "I had to. There wasn't an option. I was very fortunate to get to go back in a wonderful group of people who were very kind, generous and supportive. Nick had lost his father (director **John Cassavetes**) who was the same age as my father when he passed. Nick knew what it was like. Alex, Abbie and Sofia are just really courageous girls. Their strength is not only evident in the film. The way they connect with people and build relationships is inspiring."

"You guys—my eyes are really starting to go," she admitted, misty-eyed at the recollection of the painful period. "Do you mind?" she asked to the reporters for a pause. "Maybe for just a second. I'm sorry. Thank you."

"It's so personal," she said of her role. "So many of you might know, the first year after your parent died is a very remember-your-year. It's a very important year in your life. I've been going

CAMERON, H8